

RUGBY UNION  
ATE SURGE ALLO  
CAMBRIDGE  
THE HONOR

# THE TIMES

30P

No. 65,450

THURSDAY DECEMBER 14 1995

**APPOINTMENTS**  
16 pages of executive and senior positions  
SECTION 3



**He looks just like his dad**  
Why babies are a chip off the old bloke, PAGE 5



**Blair's challenger**  
Elizabeth Noel, a Tory in hostile territory  
PAGE 19



**BRYANT'S EYE**  
Panto in the Olympics? Oh yes it could be! PAGE 46

Lottery regulator gives details of his "free flights" trip to America

## Inquiry to be held into Camelot row

By JON ASHWORTH, ARTHUR LEATHLEY, AND ALEXANDRA FREAN

PETER Davis, the Director General of the National Lottery, is to launch an investigation into allegations made by Richard Branson about the tactics used by Camelot to win the contact to run the National Lottery.

He acted as a question was laid in Parliament about a visit he made to Australia.

Yesterday Alan Williams, Labour MP for Swansea West, tabled a Commons question to Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, asking "when the Director-General of Oflot visited Australia, who paid for the visit, how long was the visit, and what assessment [was made by her] as to the conformity of the visit with guidelines?"

Earlier this week Mr Davis admitted taking five free flights in America on a jet owned by GTEch, an American company behind the successful Camelot bid for the lottery contract.

MPs of all parties have accused both Mr Davis and the National Heritage Department of making insufficient inquiries about the activities of GTEch, which has been involved in running lotteries worldwide. It was the GTEch chairman, Guy Snowden, who was accused by Richard Branson in a *Panorama* programme on Monday of attempting to bribe him not to challenge Camelot's bid.

Mr Davis said last night that a senior and independent person would be appointed to examine the allegations made

by Mr Branson. He said: "It is my duty to ensure that those involved in the operation of the National Lottery are fit and proper to do so and it is to this question that the investigation will be directed. I shall announce who is to conduct the investigation and its terms of reference shortly."

Camelot denied that it had paid for Mr Davis's flights to Australia last month but a spokesman said the company had invited Mr Davis to a dinner in Australia, attended by several other international lottery directors, and hosted by Tim Holley, chief executive of Camelot. "Nothing that could be remotely considered inappropriate has ever been offered to Mr Davis," said David Rigg, director of communications.

Mr Davis also denied that the trip to an international lottery convention in Perth, Western Australia, was paid for by Camelot. He said he was accompanied by his wife and he paid for her ticket. He paid his own hotel bills and was preparing a detailed report, outlining each meal and detailing gifts he received, including pens and mugs.

He denied a further rumour that was circulating in Westminster that he had stayed at the Florida home of Mr Snowden whilst in the United States. While he went to Florida as part of his investigation of how US lotteries operate he has never visited Mr Snowden's home he said. GTEch has a 22.5 per cent

stake in Camelot, and has a share of profits running at £1 million a week.

Mr Davis said he only accepted free flights from GTEch, the American lottery operator, after seeking the advice of colleagues at Oflot.

The rumours mark an intensification of the apparent dirty tricks war which has raged around Mr Davis since controversy erupted on Monday.

Details of Mr Davis's visit to America in the last week of October 1994 emerged last night. Mr Davis said: "In the period running up to the launch, I simply could not have done it in any other way. I made a decision, consciously and openly, that this was the most efficient way to go about it."

Oflot paid Mr Davis's hotel bills during the trip, while meals were paid for locally. Mr Davis is preparing a 40-page dossier on the visit, which will soon be submitted to the Public Accounts Committee.

He caught a scheduled flight from London to Austin, Texas, to inspect what was then the world's biggest lottery start-up. The flight to Austin was paid for by Oflot.

Mr Davis flew from Austin to Tallahassee, the Florida state capital, in a jet belonging to GTEch. He held talks with the Florida state lottery, which is run by AWI, a rival to GTEch in the bid to run the British Lottery.

Bruce Mayberry, programme director for AWI, confirmed that Mr Davis had visited the company on October 20 1994. Mr Mayberry said: "He was scheduled to leave at 4pm or 4.30pm, but we were running late. I was embarrassed about him missing his flight but he told me not to worry because he was flying on GTEch's private plane. A limo with a driver wearing a peaked cap came to take him to the airport; it had to wait for him for about an hour. I thought it was a bit odd that he should visit us on another competitor's money."



Mr Davis yesterday: his duty was to see lottery operators were "fit and proper"

AWI is one of America's biggest lottery operators and was part of four unsuccessful consortia bidding for the licence to run the National Lottery.

After the decision taken at

## Mortgage rate reduced to lowest for a generation

By JANET BUSH AND PHILIP WEBSTER

MORTGAGE rates fell to their lowest level for almost 30 years yesterday after Kenneth Clarke cut interest rates by a quarter point to 6.5 per cent. The Chancellor acted to sustain the faltering economic recovery but the modesty of the cut disappointed business leaders and some Tory MPs.

Even so it was enough to prompt a surprise reduction by lenders desperate to revive the housing market. The Halifax Building Society, Britain's largest, cut its rates by a similar amount and a few other societies followed.

Mortgage rates had been trimmed two weeks ago in anticipation of the base rate cut and no further decrease was expected.

There was still widespread disappointment among Conservative backbenchers who felt that a base rate cut of at least 0.5 per cent was needed. John Townend, chairman of the backbench finance committee, welcomed the move but added that the Chancellor would have to act again by the beginning of February. "It's got to be the first of a few cuts. I anticipate it is the first instalment in successive quarter per cent cuts needed to get growth going and achieve the target of 3 per cent growth."

Mr Clarke told BBC Radio 4's *World at One*: "I take decisions that are necessary to keep the recovery on course and to carry on creating jobs and creating prosperity. If I listened to all the short-term advice I get, I would have blown this recovery off course a long time ago." He added: "We are now becoming a low inflation economy. We must get used to the behaviour that comes with that."

After the decision taken at

yesterday's meeting between Mr Clarke and Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, industrial leaders said that still lower rates would be needed to revive the economy.

Mr George said that he had been delighted to advise a 0.25 per cent cut but it was also clear that he and the Chancellor had considered pushing for a larger one. However, both appeared to be satisfied with what was obviously a compromise, particularly in view of yesterday's news of a modest rise in retail sales and a fall in unemployment.

The base rate reduction was

the first since February 8 last year. This was followed by three increases as a pre-emptive strike against inflation which, together with the very large tax rises of recent years, have succeeded in dragging down the economy.

Richard Brown, Deputy Director-General of The British Chambers of Commerce, said that yesterday's cut would not make any difference to consumers or to companies' willingness to invest. He said: "The Chancellor is now showing excessive wariness."

Professor Patrick Minford, one of the "three wise men" on the Chancellor's independent forecasting panel, said that rates should have been cut by at least 0.5 per cent given the very weak economic situation.

"There will be a series of rate cuts next year with the Bank of England ritually

Leading article.....21  
Market reaction.....25  
Analise Kaletsky.....28

Continued on page 2, col 6

### Wife of stabbed GP speaks out

The wife of a doctor who was stabbed in his surgery has criticised the Government's Care in the Community policy after learning that his alleged attacker had been freed from a psychiatric hospital.

Dr Tony Irwold's wife, Naomi, said: "What has been happening is that this Government has pursued a policy of community care which doesn't always work. Care in the Community is not effective."

Page 3

### Sara Thornton faces a retrial

Sara Thornton is to stand trial again for the killing of her violent and drunken husband after the Court of Appeal quashed her murder conviction yesterday.

Mrs Thornton had served five years for stabbing her husband Malcolm, 44, while he was in a drunken stupor. She will remain on bail until the trial.

Page 9

## China jails dissident for 14 years

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

WEI JINGSHENG, China's leading dissident, was sentenced in Peking yesterday to 14 years in jail for "attempting to overthrow the Government" after a trial from which the foreign press and diplomats were excluded.

The sentence is only a year shorter than the one Mr Wei received in 1979 when he was convicted of "counter-revolution" for criticising the Communist party, Chairman Mao, Deng Xiaoping, and championing democracy.

The spokesman for Peking's No 1 Intermediate People's Court, which was sealed off by police at a distance of 600 yards for the latest trial, said Mr Wei had also been "deprived of his political rights" for three years.

Last night, relatives of Mr Wei said he would appeal.



Wei: accused of attempt to overthrow regime

They have ten days to do so, but an unsuccessful appeal can result in a tougher sentence. After the five-hour trial, the state radio broadcast details of Mr Wei's alleged crimes. He published articles in foreign media criticising the Chinese Government and demanding Tibetan independence. He also was accused of raising funds for anti-government projects by organising an art exhibition and by buying shares in a credit co-operative.

Outside the court Ying Jing, a veteran dissident who had worked with Mr Wei when he was writing wallposters at Peking's short-lived Democracy Wall in 1978-9 and had himself served eight years in prison, said: "The authorities have the most difficult job. It's always difficult to restrain thinking." He shook off a policeman, but was soon dragged into a police car.

Han Dongfang, leader of China's free trade union movement and a survivor of Tiananmen Square now in

exile in Hong Kong, said that the tepid international response to Mr Wei's detention showed that human rights had been abandoned in favour of trade. He said, too, that Mr Wei was the leader of the Chinese democratic movement and that by sentencing him the regime was saying to his followers: "We can do this to you." Chris Patten, the Hong Kong Governor, said he would pray for Mr Wei.

If Mr Wei, 46, serves his entire 14-year sentence he will have been behind bars or in the gulag, and almost wholly in isolation, from 1979 to 2009, except for seven months of liberty after he was released in late 1993 in a vain attempt by Peking to secure the 2000 Olympics.

Facing the storm, page 16

## Euro-time Bill is thwarted

By NICHOLAS WOOD  
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MOVES to give southern Britain an extra hour of daylight on winter afternoons were halted by the Cabinet yesterday.

Ministers bowed to pressure from Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, to withhold official support for John Bunter's Bill, bringing clocks into line with Europe. The Bill would mean sunrise being delayed until after 10am in northern Scotland.

The Cabinet decided to remain neutral over the proposal by the Conservative MP for Bournemouth West. The British Time (Extra Daylight) Bill will be debated next month.

## TV's voice of motor racing may be silenced

By JOHN GOODBODY  
SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

MURRAY WALKER, the much-parodied voice of motor racing, may soon be without a microphone after the BBC yesterday lost its contract to screen Formula One Grands Prix.

ITV has scooped the rights to the next five seasons beginning in 1997 for a record £60 million — ten times the present BBC contract price. The corporation is already reeling from the loss of the FA Cup final for the first time for 60 years.

Mr Walker, 72, who has commented on Grands Prix for 47 years, was reticent

about whether ITV could cover the sport without him. Asked whether he would be prepared to work for ITV, he said: "I really do not know. I have only just heard the news."

He added that he was disappointed that the BBC was not given the chance to bid for the championship. However, it is extremely unlikely that the BBC would have been prepared to match the money that ITV, having lost many top sports events to Sky, was offering the Formula One Constructors' Association.

Mr Walker once said about his commenting: "I do not make mistakes. I make prophecies which immediately turn out to be wrong." Some of his most

famous utterances have included: "Nigel Mansell — the man of the race — the man of the day — the man from the Isle of Man" and "an Achilles heel for the McLaren team this year, and it is literally the heel because it is the gear box."

The only person who was happy yesterday about the possibility that he may not be heard on television was his wife, Elizabeth. She said: "Whoopie, now I will see more of him at home."

A BBC spokeswoman said: "We are deeply disappointed at the news. It came out of the blue. We had no notice of it." It televised its first British Grand Prix in 1949 and covered the world championship every year since 1978.



Walker: screech to a halt?

# GUCCI

GUCCI ACCENTI

The fragrance of fascination.  
Gucci Accenti.

TV & RADIO	46, 47	LETTERS	21	ARTS	35-37	SPORT	43-46, 48
WEATHER	24	OBITUARIES	23	CHESS & BRIDGE	44	TRAVEL NEWS	40, 41
CROSSWORDS	24, 48	WILLIAM REES-MOGG	20	COURT & SOCIAL	20	LAW REPORT	42



# If it moves or if it's stationery ... privatise it

BETTY BOOTHROYD had a twitchy look yesterday as ministers announced the privatisation of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. HMSO print *Hansard* and all the official parliamentary papers. With each passing month Madam Speaker hears the shells landing closer to her own trench.

There's a festive game in which you start with a phrase, then top off the last word, then the last two ... successively increasing the size of the amputation until a surprising result is reached. Tory privatisation policy seems to resemble this. The statement

yesterday suggested that, for the moment, it is the office which is to be shunted off into the private sector: that is to say the staff, the administration and the printing works are to go.

As Roger Freeman, the Minister, pointed out, this will enable the company to use the machinery for other publications too. *Tithits*, perhaps. *Boys*, or *Seventeen*? Heaven help the foreman in charge when parts of *Hello!* get interspersed with pages of *The Official Report*. Readers of *Hello!* — decent, family-minded people — would blanch at the smears, the



**MATTHEW PARRIS**  
POLITICAL SKETCH

title-tattle, the sheer vulgarity which passes for parliamentary debate.

But though the O in HMSO is to be privatised, the HMS (said the Minister) will stay. Staff responsible for HM Stationery remain in public employ, to give the privatised O work.

And next? The S. Her Majesty's stationery. The Queen's notepaper could easily attract commercial inter-

est. British businesses have already been asked to sponsor flagpoles outside Buckingham Palace.

A discreet plug for (say) Marmite or Janet Reger could be placed above Her Majesty's letterheads, saving the taxpayers' money. For centuries the Crown has sponsored the private sector by giving those "By Royal Appointment" coats of arms. Let the private sector returned

the compliment. Thus we shed the S and the O, leaving just HM.

Next to be privatised could be the *Majesty*. When, years ago, Tony Benn made the suggestion that the Tories might get the private sector to pay for royal pomp ("The State Opening, sponsored by Benson & Hedges," chuckled Benn), he meant it as a joke. But under the Tories the jokes of the Eighties are the White Papers of the Nineties.

Majesty cries out for flotation. The Government already seeks private sponsorship for the Royal Yacht. Thus do we remove the O, the

S and the M from HMSO. We begin to understand Miss Boothroyd's anxiety. For what is left? Her.

And why not? The Speaker's procession into the chamber, followed by the chap with the golden mace and the chaplain in antique costume, needs to be handled with reverence. It could be franchised to Classic FM: "Miss Boothroyd's shoes by Anello & Davide".

The Speaker's Chair itself, in green leather, comes with a canopy fringed in brocade and tassels. Harrods could

handle this with aplomb. A tasteful logo could be worked in gold thread into the frieze. The store might sell replicas.

Which brings us to the Speaker's House. Barratt Homes are seeking to reposition their corporate identity upmarket, but such an association risks repositioning Miss Boothroyd downmarket. My own view is that the better sort of estate agency — Savills, perhaps? — should be encouraged to bid for the freehold. A small Savills banner might be flown from the tower above Miss Boothroyd's bedroom. You laugh, reader? Wait.

## Master of Rolls stresses call of public interest

# Increase in conveyancing charges 'may be unlawful'

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Master of the Rolls has warned the Law Society that any proposal to eradicate cut-price conveyancing fees may be unlawful or "contrary to public policy".

Sir Thomas Bingham, the country's most senior civil judge, reminded the Law Society on the eve of its conveyancing debate of its duty to act in the public interest. In a letter to the Law Society he says it "can scarcely discharge its public duty ... by acting in a way which may be unlawful because contrary to public policy".

Sir Thomas, who was a

guest at the Law Society council dinner last night, said he had not seen any specific proposal. But in general he says he would not be able to agree a new rule unless satisfied it was lawful.

Sir Thomas's letter, which went to all 75 council members, added: "It would be very embarrassing for any Master of the Rolls to concur in a rule which fell foul of the relevant regulatory authority." His comments are contained in a letter to John Edge, the Bournemouth solicitor leading the campaign backed by some 12,000 solicitors for

curbs on cut-price fees. It comes as solicitors prepare for a heated debate today in which Martin Mears, the Law Society president, and Robert Sayer, vice president, will try to allay widespread concern among solicitors that cut-price fees may lead to a mass of negligence claims. Debate will centre on a new guideline scale of fee, which the Consumers Association has said will double the average conveyancing fee for a £75,000 house to £625.

Solicitors who charge less would be refused insurance cover under the profession's

indemnity fund and have to find insurance on the open market.

But in his letter the Master of the Rolls says: "It would seem to me clear that the indemnity rules may not be used to achieve ends which do not concern the provision of indemnity against loss but have some other object."

He quotes from a speech by Lord Brightman, that the purpose of the insurance scheme was to "safeguard the lay public and not professional practitioners". Sir Thomas adds that another aspect of "lawfulness" on which the Law Society will also wish to satisfy itself concerns "fair trading and competition".

"It [the council of the Law Society] can scarcely discharge its public duty under the Solicitors Act (1974) by acting in a way which may be unlawful because contrary to public policy."

It would be "very embarrassing for any Master of the Rolls to concur in a rule which fell foul of the relevant regulatory authority", he says, adding however that he would be "greatly reassured" by a convincing and favourable opinion of leading counsel in the field.

## Fair play in sport 'is no crime'

By FRANCES GIBB

SPORTSMEN who inflict violent injuries during the course of a game should not be prosecuted if they have kept to the rules, the Law Commission says today.

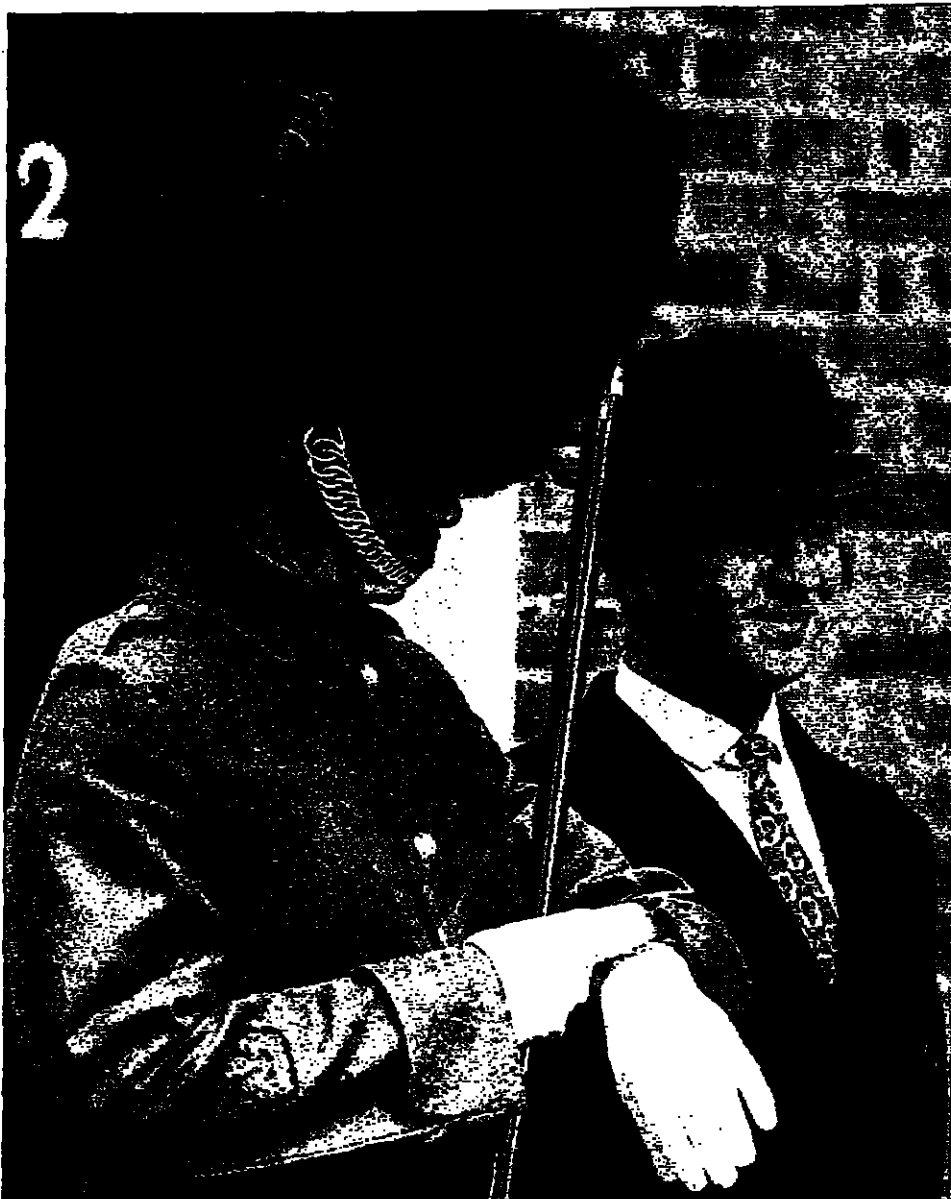
The Government's law reform body's proposals would clarify the grey area of injuries in sport. In cricket, for example, a fast bowler would only be at risk of criminal prosecution if his conduct was clearly

outside the rules of the game. "If, despite warnings by the umpire, he persists in bowling dangerously and the batsman is injured, then there is no reason why he should not be convicted of a criminal offence if the court is sure that he intended to inflict injury."

The commission suggests that a "special recognition scheme" be drawn up by the Sports Council listing approved sports and martial arts. In those sports, a person

would no longer be guilty of an offence if he or she injured another player while playing the sport by the rules.

The commission also proposes that consenting adults who indulge in sado-masochism that does not cause any serious disabling injury should not be guilty of a criminal offence. The commission floats that suggestion that men charged with rape should not necessarily be able to use the defence of consent.



Marking time: Regimental Sergeant Major Mason, in charge of the ceremonies in Downing Street surrounding the arrival of President Kuchma of Ukraine yesterday, displays a familiar characteristic of those of his calling. Accompanied by an officer in mufti, he checks that everything is going absolutely to schedule

## Au pair's killer is jailed for life

A sex attacker was jailed for life yesterday for the murder of an au pair. Darren Smith, 28, was on home leave from jail for an earlier indecent assault when he strangled Susanna Jungblut, 20, from Switzerland, after a disco in Dunstable, Bedfordshire.

Smith had been serving six years for assaulting a woman after sentencing for dishonesty. Mr Justice Allott said at the Old Bailey: "There must be the most anxious consideration given to when a man like you is released again." Miss Jungblut, described as a home-loving churchgoer, had arrived in England only two months earlier.

## Ulster troops stay

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, said yesterday that the Government has no immediate plans to withdraw more troops. Mr Portillo, visiting the Girdwood Barracks in north Belfast, said: "We know that the terrorists have continued to collude data on targets. Therefore we need to keep our guard up in case there is a resumption of violence."

## BT payout

A BT worker has accepted £300,000 compensation after a five-year battle over back injuries suffered in an accident as he climbed a pole. Steve Crawley, 39, of Ashton, Preston, had been refused an elevating platform. BT declined to comment on claims that it hired private detectives to follow the injured worker and his wife for seven weeks despite medical evidence.

## MP's son banned

Benjamin Butcher, 19, son of John Butcher, Conservative MP for Coventry South West, who crashed his father's Jaguar car into traffic lights while more than twice over the drink-drive limit, was placed on probation for 12 months, banned from driving for two years and ordered to do 100 hours' community service by magistrates at Solihull.

## Cost of crime

Crime is costing shops and manufacturing industries more than £1 billion a year, according to a Home Office study published yesterday. An estimated 8.6 million crimes were carried out against retailers with 5.8 million being thefts from shops, off-licences and other retail premises, costing retailers £780 million a year and manufacturers £275 million.

## Clear winner

The Times has the clearest news reports among national newspapers, according to the Plain English Campaign, which makes its annual awards in London today. Chrissie Maher, campaign director, said: "There is still too much bad reporting in some newspapers, but we were very impressed with the consistently high standard The Times sets for itself."

## Icon sale record

A Byzantine icon *The Nativity of Christ*, regarded by the art world as the most important to be offered at auction, fetched a record £265,500 at Christie's in London yesterday. The panel shows the Virgin Mary reclining at the mouth of a cave housing the infant Jesus in his cradle. The sale of 42 Greek and Russian icons fetched more than £750,000.

## Schools inspector accused of bias as pamphlet backs Tory policies

By JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION EDITOR

CHRIS WOODHEAD, the Chief Inspector of Schools, was accused yesterday of straying into the political arena with a pamphlet published by a right-wing think-tank in which he questioned the need for local education authorities and doubted the value of extra funding for schools.

Mr Woodhead, who leads the Office for Standards in Education, has courted controversy with outspoken criticisms of teaching standards. Launching a debate on schools for the new think-tank *Politeia*, he repeated his view that up to 15,000 teachers should be sacked, and traditional teaching methods restored.

However, the intervention of the chief inspector in a debate which divides Conservative MPs surprised observers.

Proposals for all state schools to become grant-maintained are being considered for the Conservative election manifesto, but have been resisted by influential figures on both wings of the party, as well as by the Opposition.

Mr Woodhead suggested that local education authorities might breed a "dependency culture" in head teachers, undermining the leadership qualities needed to raise standards. Without coming down in favour of their abolition, he asked whether LEA services could not be provided equally well by commercial agencies.

The support and advisory role of local authorities is central to Labour's policy outlined last week for raising standards, but Mr Woodhead questioned whether they had any contribution to make to failing schools. Scipities, he said, "reject the notion that the school's survival

depends on ready access to LEA intensive care and doubt the wisdom of targeting finite resources in this way on what ought to be recognised as the terminally ill."

Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats accused Mr Woodhead of engaging in partisan political debate. Don Foster, the Liberal Democrat education spokesman, said: "Chris Woodhead has finally proved that he is off his trolley, tying himself to the failing Tory party."

Mr Foster was stung by an apparent reference to the Liberal Democrats' pledge to raise income tax by a penny to spend more on education. Mr Woodhead asked in his pamphlet: "Would a decision to find, say, an extra billion for education necessarily cause standards to rise? The answer is, of course, that it would not."

□ *A Question of Standards: Finding the Balance* (Politeia, 28 Charing Cross, London WC2H 0DB; £5)

## Costs of living that cannot be equalled

By RUSSELL JENKINS

THE Halifax Building Society led the way yesterday to cheaper mortgages by cutting interest rates to the lowest level since 1968.

For many that year is best remembered for England's World Cup victory at Wembley against West Germany. Average weekly earnings were £20.31 for men and £10.07 for women, and the state pension for single people was £4 a week.

The average price of a house was £4,080 and the average mortgage borrowed from a bank or building society was £2,324. The basic rate of tax started at 41.25 per cent and rose to 91.25 per cent. The bank base rate was 7 per

cent and inflation was at slightly more than 4 per cent.

Twenty-nine years ago a pint of beer cost the equivalent of less than 9p, a pint of milk 4p, and 20 cigarettes 23p. The price of an Austin Mini £478 and of a Rolls-Royce £10,000. The second-class rail fare from London to Birmingham was £3.02.

The Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, was returned to power with an increased majority at a general election in March. In July, the number of people out of work and claiming benefit was 258,233.

Leading article, page 21  
Thirty-year low, page 25  
Anatole Kaletsky, page 29

## Clarke cuts rate

Continued from page 1  
dragging its feet on every one. It is becoming a bit of a farce." He said that the Government will be lucky to achieve 2 per cent growth next year, let alone the 3 per cent it predicted in the Budget.

The move by the Halifax was an unexpected bonus. It shaved a further 0.25 per cent off its basic mortgage rate to 7.49 per cent, taking it to its lowest level since May 1966. The new lower rates apply immediately to new borrowers and from February 1 for existing customers. The two cuts together represent a monthly saving of around £15 for a borrower with a £50,000 mortgage.

Downing Street sources said that the cut in interest rates, together with rising High Street sales and another fall in unemployment, was a

triple whammy for the Government and a boost for the Prime Minister on the eve of the European Summit in Madrid at the weekend.

The volume of retail sales grew by 0.6 per cent in November after very weak spending figures in the past few months. Headline unemployment fell by 20,400 to a four and a half year low of 2,244,500 in November, the 27th consecutive monthly fall, an achievement which the Government said reflected its policies for a flexible and deregulated labour market.

But Gordon Brown, Shadow Chancellor, said that the base rate cut was a reflection of economic weakness, not strength.

Leading article, page 21  
Market reaction, page 25  
Anatole Kaletsky, page 28

### Exclusive Nokia Christmas Offer.

**FREE LIFETIME EXTENDED WARRANTY**

**FREE CONNECTION TO VODAFONE LOWEST WITH NO TARIFF INCREASES GUARANTEED FOR LIFE**

**FREE CASH BACK ON YOUR AIRTIME BILLS**

**CELLPHONES DIRECT CHRISTMAS PACKAGE NOKIA 101 £9.99 INC. VAT PLUS**

**FREE SPARE BATTERY FREE IN-CAR ADAPTOR FREE LEATHER CASE TOGETHER WORTH OVER £100**

**NOKIA MODEL 101**

- 50 name/number memory
- 150 mins talk-time
- 33 hrs standby-time
- Complete with mains charger and 800 mAh battery
- Guaranteed peace of mind

Your phone is covered by our 14 days no quibble money back promise.

**Cellphones Direct**

ORDER NOW FOR FREE LINE RENTAL UNTIL DECEMBER 31ST 1995 AND FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS.

**FREEPHONE 0500 000 888**

CREDIT CARD ORDERING HOTLINE WEEKDAYS 9AM TO 5PM WEEKENDS 9AM TO 5PM

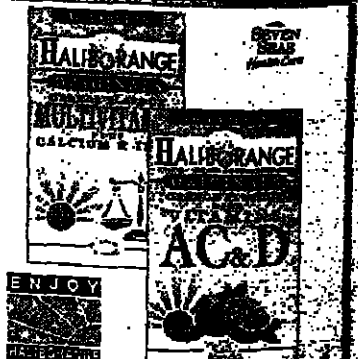
PLEASE HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD AND TWO APPROVED IDENTIFICATION WHEN YOU CALL AND CREDIT CARD DETAILS

OFFER SUBJECT TO STATUS AND A STANDARD AIRTIME CONTRACT FOR EACH PHONE WITH Cellphones Direct Ltd. 185 Lower Richmond Road, Richmond-upon-Thames TW9 4JL.

\*Full written details and terms and conditions of this offer are available on request. © Copyright Registered No. 2595222.

Is your child's idea of good food lacking a few essentials?

Haliborange AC&D for children and Multivitamins plus calcium and iron for teenagers are specially formulated to help you ensure that youngsters stay healthy. For looks, growth and vitality, a Haliborange a day can help put back what your child's diet may lack.



كلنا من اولاد

'These people need to be looked after in secure hospitals, not allowed to roam the streets'

## Community care is not working, says stabbed GP's wife

By JOANNA BALE

THE wife of a doctor who was stabbed in his surgery has criticised the Government's Care in the Community policy after learning that his alleged attacker had been freed from a psychiatric hospital. Maria Caseiro had been placed in bed and breakfast accommodation after being discharged from 15 months' detention.

Dr Tony Inwald's wife, Naomi, said yesterday: "What has been happening is that this Government has pursued a policy of community care for mentally ill patients which

doesn't always work. Care in the Community is not effective. Many of these people need to be looked after by professionals in secure hospitals, not allowed to roam the streets."

Mrs Inwald, speaking from her home in Highgate, north London, said that the Home Secretary's new policy of tightening the law on knives would not do any good.

"How would it be implemented? It is not just knives that they carry but also screwdrivers and other sharp instruments," she said.

Her criticism was echoed by doctors in the surgery at Archway, north London, where the stabbing took place on Tuesday evening.

Dr Judith Sharpey-Schafer, to whose aid Dr Inwald went when she pressed a panic button in her surgery, said there were shortcomings in the way Care in the Community had been implemented. She added: "This awful happening illustrates the difficulties for GPs."

She said she was going to visit Dr Inwald at Whittington Hospital. "I am going to thank him for saving my life and endangering his own. The other doctors and receptionists were also very brave in overcoming the woman. The police and ambulance services came quickly and were really helpful and responsive in a difficult situation."

As staff at the St John's Way medical centre met to review security yesterday, another GP, Dr Ivor Robinson, said: "We have never had anyone with a knife before, although we have had written and verbal threats and physical assaults. Our impression is that there is an increasing workload with patients discharged into the community."

Ms Caseiro allegedly stabbed Dr Inwald, 59, in the chest when he went to his colleague's aid. He was given first aid by colleagues and then by paramedics. He was yesterday described as "sta-



Mrs Inwald, with her daughter Jacqueline, 26, relieved that Dr Inwald is recovering after the attack at his practice

"The health cuts and the provision to care for people doesn't seem adequate. A number of psychiatric nurses, day centres and support services are not enough. It is only when it happens so close to you that you are reminded of your own vulnerability."

Ms Caseiro allegedly stabbed Dr Inwald, 59, in the chest when he went to his colleague's aid. He was given first aid by colleagues and then by paramedics. He was yesterday described as "sta-

ble" in hospital after receiving stitches to a chest wound.

His son David, 30, a paediatrician at St Bartholomew's Hospital, said his father was sitting up in bed and talking. He said: "It has been a very worrying time but it is a relief to know he is safe. We are all very upset by this."

As patients called in to the surgery to inquire about the doctor yesterday, Lesley Harding, the practice manager, told them: "He is fine and he has still got his sense of

humour about him. We hope he will back to work soon."

She added later: "Unfortunately, this is what the doctors are facing every day. Doctors are not getting the support they need and they really are in the front line. We never turn patients away from here and we do not keep statistics on how many Care in the Community patients we have."

Ms Caseiro had arrived for an appointment at the surgery at 6.30pm, when the incident occurred. She registered with

Dr Sharpey-Schafer a month ago after being released from hospital.

She lived near the surgery in Krystals bed-and-breakfast hotel, a hostel for the homeless located above a travel agent's shop in Upper Holloway, run by the landlady's son. Ms Caseiro's landlady said yesterday: "She had only been here a month so I didn't get to know her too well. All the social workers told me that she was a nice, quiet girl who had been in hospital."



Dr Inwald, who was "stable" in hospital after he was stabbed going to the aid of Dr Sharpey-Schafer

## Changed way of life for family born to medicine

By JOANNA BALE

THE large, purpose-built surgery where Dr Anthony Inwald was attacked is just along the road from his childhood home, where his father ran a one-man practice.

Dr Philip Inwald, who died in 1978, began working there in the 1930s when the area was populated by middle-class families living in elegant Victorian houses. In those pre-NHS days, Dr Inwald carried a Gladstone bag on home visits and was a respected pillar of the community. His wife Esther, who died nine years ago, was his receptionist.

The surgery was on the ground floor of his Victorian home at 57 St John's Way. It was unheard of for them to encounter the aggression and violence which are commonplace in the present surgery, on the edge of a 1970s red-brick council estate. The house was demolished to make way for flats on the estate.

Dr Inwald's wife, Naomi, said: "My father-in-law was like my husband, a very kind, quiet man who was a gentle, excellent doctor." Dr Inwald

was awarded the MBE for his bravery in digging out and saving local people during the Blitz. Mrs Inwald, a dental hygienist, added: "He was a very brave man but he was far too modest to talk about it."

Anthony Inwald joined his father's practice at the beginning of the 1960s when he graduated from medical school. His sister Joan also

became a doctor and works as a community audiologist. Father and son began to expand and another practice joined them, so that there were four doctors. When the Victorian house was demolished, they set up their surgery in a Portakabin where they remained for ten years.

Dr Philip Inwald retired, another doctor joined in his place, and the four moved into their present premises in 1978. Within months they were forced to put padlocks and steel grilles on the windows after attacks from vandals and burglars. Panic buttons were installed in 1991.

One doctor, Ivor Robinson, who has been a partner since 1972, said: "We are quite often verbally and physically threatened nowadays. We are a large practice with seven doctors. Not all of these threats come from people with mental health problems."

"Most doctors feel that expectations have risen. The Patient's Charter is only one element in the whole change in consumerism and increases in demand. People are less tolerant of problems and want quicker answers which do not exist."

Despite the enormous pressures, Dr Inwald's son, David, 30, has also followed in the family tradition and is now a paediatrician at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London. His daughter, Jackie, 26, is a research biologist. Doctors at the practice met to review security arrangements yesterday.

ST. JOHN'S WAY  
MEDICAL  
CENTRE

became a doctor and works as a community audiologist.

Father and son began to expand and another practice joined them, so that there were four doctors. When the Victorian house was demolished, they set up their surgery in a Portakabin where they remained for ten years.



Quieter days at the Archway: Dr Inwald's father was a local doctor in the 1930s

## Psychiatrist's plea to halt discharge was overruled

By ADRIAN LEE

THE woman accused of stabbing a doctor at his surgery was released from a mental hospital less than three weeks ago. Maria Caseiro, 29, was being treated at St Bernard's Hospital in Ealing, west London, before her release on November 24 by a Mental Health Review Tribunal.

She was transferred to St Bernard's in August but had been receiving treatment for 15 months at other hospitals. Miss Caseiro appealed against the order, which was keeping her in hospital against her will.

Her psychiatrist argued for a "delayed discharge", which would have meant continued treatment and supervision at a community centre. He was overruled by the review tribu-

nal, composed of a doctor, a lawyer and a lay person.

A spokesman for the West London Healthcare NHS Trust, which runs St Bernard's, said yesterday: "She was being treated for a personality disorder and her condition had stabilised. She had already been on unescorted leave from the hospital."

Miss Caseiro had a history of self-harm but had never threatened others. She does not have a criminal record. She was treated at St Bernard's in an open ward. An Enfield hospital had earlier regarded her as a medium risk and kept her in a locked ward.

The trust spokesman said: "The [tribunal] ruling meant she was discharged and she left our care with a social worker." Attempts were made

by Camden and Islington Council to place Miss Caseiro in a hostel specialising in those with mental problems. But it was full and the council sent her to the Krystals Hotel in Holloway, north London.

The Department of Social Security paid for her bed and breakfast accommodation and she was visited two or three times a week by a social worker. Efforts were made to provide Miss Caseiro with counselling and places on an education course and at a day centre. Social workers said she refused all offers of help.

Miss Caseiro was remanded in custody for a week by Highbury Corner magistrates yesterday, charged with causing grievous bodily harm. She was accompanied by a Portuguese interpreter. There was no application for bail.

From January Abbey National will be launching three exciting new TESSAs. The TESSA Collection includes both fixed and variable interest rate options. Whether you have an Abbey National TESSA or not, to find out more, simply drop into your nearest branch or call us free on 0800 100 805, Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm or Saturday 9.00am to 1.00pm, quoting reference A372C.

ABBEY NATIONAL

The habit of a lifetime



SAVINGS

For your security and to assist us in improving our service to you we may record or monitor all calls to Abbey National Direct. TESSAs are subject to statutory rules and regulations which may change from time to time and are tax free provided you comply with the conditions of the accounts. Please note that certain eligibility criteria apply. See in branch leaflets for details. Abbey National, the Umbrella Couple symbol and The habit of a lifetime are trademarks of Abbey National plc. Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL.



# Comfort.

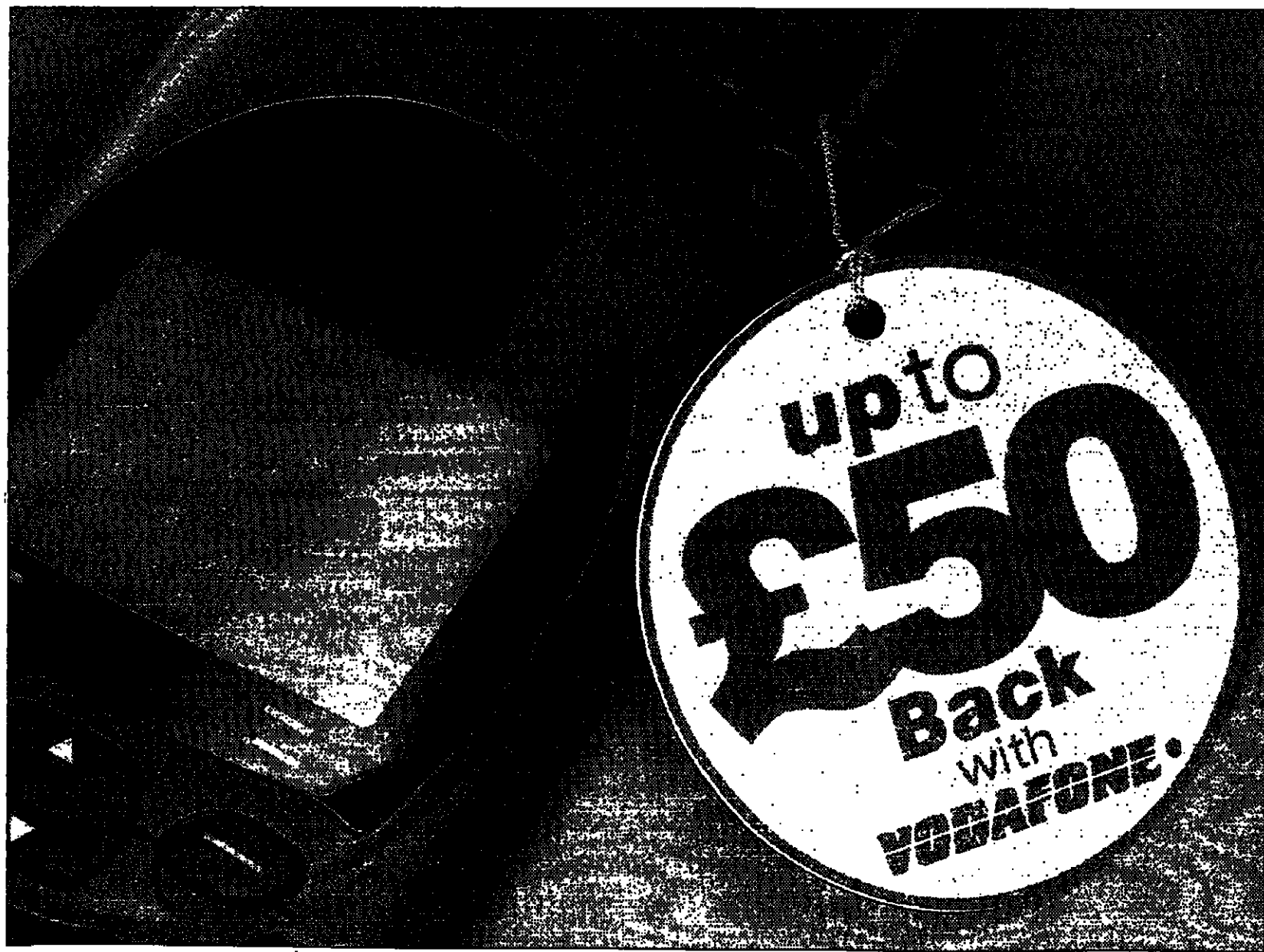


Before you buy a mobile phone this Christmas, remember...

Vodafone has the only analogue network in the UK that can offer you protection against fraudulent usage.

Our ingenious system makes it impossible for fraudsters to run up calls on your bill. Only Vodafone can give you this comfort.

# And joy.



And what's more, buy a Vodafone during December and get a big cheque back on your calls.

Every connection to Vodafone's LowCall or Digital services qualifies for a healthy rebate on call charges.

For full details ask your mobile phone specialist or high street retailer. This offer must end on December 31st 1995, so hurry.

**VODAFONE**

NOBODY GOES FURTHER TO KEEP YOU IN TOUCH.



# Kasparov scores chess victory for human race

By Robin Young

GARRY KASPAROV, the world chess champion, yesterday clinched victory over a computer capable of analysing 10 million moves in a minute.

His victory, by 1½ to ½ in a match of two 25-minute games, was regarded as final proof that, in matchplay, mechanical intelligence is not enough to beat human intuition.

For Kasparov it was sweet revenge for a defeat in August 1994 in London, when he was knocked out of the first round of the Intel World Chess Grand Prix by a 90MHz Pentium processor. Since then the Russian had evened the score in Cologne in May, playing against a more powerful 120MHz machine.

Yesterday's decider was against a 150MHz processor running Fritz4, claimed to be the most sophisticated chess computer program. The machine can calculate more than ten million moves a minute, 172,000 every second.

For the match Kasparov, known as the chess world's nastiest dresser, wore a green cashmere jacket, yellow tie and dark trousers. The Pentium processor wore uniform grey. Its operator, Matthias Feist from Hamburg, chose tight grey jeans that exposed pale socks above brown shoes. He looked the very model of a computer nerd.

Herr Feist may have been the decisive player in the first game, for on the ninth move he did an unprecedented thing in man versus machine matchplay: he keyed the wrong move into the computer, making the Pentium speedily block a piece that was not there. The invigilator, Stuart Reuben, was called to the

stage at the Conference Forum, east London, where there was an audience of several hundred, and decided that nothing could be done to retrieve the move.

Experts said that Kasparov had won the advantage of a free move in preparing his defence with the black pieces, and he quickly made full use of it. Kasparov was granted his win with 11 minutes still on the clock.

In the second game the Pentium puzzled Kasparov by playing an opening he had himself favoured, with disastrous results, in his world championship struggles with Anatoly Karpov in the 1980s. As play progressed some believed the computer might level the score, and win the right to a blitz-play decider, but the champion held on for the draw.

Maurice Ashley, an American international grandmaster who commented on the match, said: "Against humans Kasparov can feed off human psychology and his opponents' fear but a computer does not have any psychology. It does not care if it is playing a world champion or a turtle."

Kasparov said: "We were playing very unusual chess. To play against a machine it is best to forget about brilliance and to concentrate on playing exactly the strategy it has been programmed with."

And his next human opponent? "The world chess championship is in such a mess that I cannot tell," said Kasparov, who is still in dispute with the ruling authority Fide. "In that game it is still Fide's move."

Keene on Chess, page 44



Daddies' boys: Winston Churchill, who said all babies looked like him, with his son Randolph; the Prince of Wales with Prince William; and John Lennon with his son Julian

## The image of their father . . . but only at the age of one

By Nigel Hawkes  
SCIENCE EDITOR

PARENTS' claims that their offspring "look just like them" have proved to be often a groundless boast, but there are noticeable similarities between one-year-old babies and their fathers.

A Californian study found that photographs of children could not be matched with their parents, except for the babies and their dads.

Psychologists recruited 122 volunteers to look at photographs of 24 white parents and children. They studied the child at the ages of one, ten and 20, and tried to match them to three possible mothers and fathers, one of whom was correct.

They were easily able to detect similarities between the children at different ages, and between pictures of their parents taken 20 years apart, showing that distinguishing characteristics were visible in the photo-

graphs. But they were unable to match children to parents. The ten and 20-year-old offspring were judged no more similar to their parents than to other adults. The exception came with the one-year-olds, of either sex. In about half of the tests, the volunteers matched the babies and fathers: the odds against this arising by chance are 200 to one.

The psychologists, Dr Nicholas Christenfeld and Dr Emily Hill of

the University of California, San Diego, give an evolutionary explanation for the finding in *Nature*. While a mother who has reared a baby can be sure that it is hers, a father who may not always be around cannot. So a recognisable similarity would be advantageous for the baby, by making the father more likely to acknowledge parentage and invest time in the child.

This would mean that babies who looked like their fathers would be

more likely to survive, and perpetuate the genes that led to the similarity. If this is so, the genes responsible for a child's facial appearance may be disproportionately inherited from the father.

But this does not explain what it is about babies' faces that makes them look like their fathers. One possibility is that the features we use to distinguish women's faces, such as the prominence of cheekbones, are invisible in babies.



Ben Needham, left, who disappeared four years ago and the boy taken briefly into custody by Greek police

## Mystery boy unlikely to be missing Ben

By Malcolm Bradbant and Paul Wilkinson

THE family of Ben Needham, the child believed to have been abducted in Greece four years ago, suffered more anguish yesterday as hopes faded that a six-year-old boy identified by a Greek private detective was their son.

Kerry Needham, 23, whose son vanished during a holiday in the Aegean island of Kos four years ago, watched a video yesterday of the boy found by the private detective with gypsies in northern Greece. Afterwards she said: "While I must keep an open

mind, I do not truly believe it is Ben. He looks a bit like his dad but his eyes are brown and Ben's eyes were blue. He also does not have a birthmark on the back of his neck."

Last night she was waiting at her home in Sheffield for a call from her parents, Eddie, 47, and Christine, 43, who are back in Kos in a fresh attempt to find the boy. Senior Greek police officers have contacted Ben's grandparents there and asked them to travel to Verda in northern Greece to check the identity of the "gypsy" boy.



## Avoid getting your head chopped off by the in-laws this Christmas.

What do you give the family that can't resist snapping away at each other? Why, the Olympus AF-10 Mini gift set, naturally. Everything one could possibly need is included in this little Christmas box: camera, carrying case, batteries and colour film. And with auto focus, auto wind and anti-red eye, taking a picture is simplicity itself. In fact, all the in-laws need to do is load, point and shoot. Which, of course, should come as second nature. THE OLYMPUS AF-10 MINI GIFT SET

### NatWest

Business Accounts  
Interest Rates

National Westminster Bank announces the following interest rates, effective from 14 December 1995:

Solicitors Reserve Account		
Gross Interest per annum	Balance	Gross Compounded Annual Return
4.500%	Instant Access - No minimum deposit/withdrawal	4.58%
4.375%	£250,000 and above	4.45%
4.000%	£100,000 - £249,999	4.06%
3.375%	£25,000 - £99,999	3.42%
2.250%	£2,000 - £24,999	2.27%
	£500 - £1,999	

\* Where appropriate, Basic Rate 7.5% will be deducted from interest credited or paid (which may be reclaimed by resident non-taxpayers). Subject to the required explanation form, interest will be paid gross.

\*\* Gross Compounded Annual Rate is the true annual return on your savings if the interest payments are reinvested in the account.

National Westminster Bank Plc  
41 Leadenhall Street, London EC3A 3BP

# Brain boy died in ambulance after tour of hospitals

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE parents of a young boy who died of a brain haemorrhage as doctors shuttled him between four hospitals after he suffered a fit may sue the health authorities.

Officials have promised an inquiry into the death of Nicholas Geldard, 10, from Offerton in Greater Manchester. He had to wait 25 minutes for an ambulance after his mother twice dialled 999 and was transferred late at night around three hospitals for a brain scan.

He could not be found a place in an intensive care unit anywhere in Manchester and eventually had to be sent 70 miles in a snow storm across the Pennines to a unit in West Yorkshire. Nicholas died in the ambulance on the way to Leeds General Infirmary 12 hours after collapsing in his bedroom while playing computer games. Yesterday his parents Dave and Cath Geldard, 41, said they were considering legal action.

"I feel very, very angry and have no faith at all in the NHS now. It was diabolical. It makes you afraid of falling ill. You always believe what the doctors tell you and you put your life in their hands, but for this to happen makes us feel sick and disillusioned," Mrs Geldard said.

Mrs Geldard lost another child 12 years ago when her baby Jane Elizabeth died from leukaemia at three months.



Nicholas Geldard: died after suffering a fit

She said: "It was like coming out of a long, black tunnel when Nick was born. We tended to spoil Nick and smother him with love." She has two older children.

The couple's MP, Ann Coffey, said: "The NHS failed this little boy. It isn't the first time we've been without intensive-care beds. It isn't the first time we haven't been able to use a scanner and it isn't the first time people have had to wait for ambulances. Nicholas had to cope with all three of these obstacles. What chance did he have?"

Nicholas collapsed just after 4pm last Thursday. He arrived almost an hour later at Stockport Royal Infirmary, where doctors agreed he should go to the nearby Stepping Hill Hospital for a brain

scan. At midnight he suffered a second fit and was transferred to the Hope Hospital in Salford for an emergency scan. He arrived at 2am.

There, staff diagnosed a brain haemorrhage but were unable to find him an intensive-care bed anywhere in Manchester. He was sent to Leeds where he was pronounced dead on arrival at 4am. Mrs Geldard said: "We have to do something about it to stop another child dying. We want some good to come of Nick's death."

Derek Caldwell, chief executive of Stockport Acute Services, which runs Stepping Hill Hospital, said: "Urgent scans can be done at Hope Hospital at any time. You would have to ask the Stockport Healthcare Trust why doctors waited until midnight before sending him for a scan."

Alan Yates, the trust's chief executive, said: "Staff had to decide whether it was in his interest to transfer to a Manchester hospital which has 24-hour scanning or to monitor him on the ward. The decision to keep him on the ward was made after consultation with a specialist at Booth Children's Hospital."

In a joint statement the Stockport Healthcare NHS Trust and Stockport Acute Services NHS Trust said that a preliminary analysis of the facts indicated that good clinical practice had been observed at all times.

## Long day for Santas but that's ho ho ho business

By ROBIN YOUNG

THERE was no doubting who was the best Father Christmas in London yesterday. His locks were longer, his beard creamier, his cap furrier, his belt buckle bigger and his blue eyes more twinkling. And he had real reindeer.

Yet for Tom Valent, the American dean of the Santa Claus School in Midland, Michigan, the challenge was tougher than facing the most demanding and cynical ten-year-old. Mr Valent had come to teach British Father Christmases to be more jovial.

On a drizzly London morning under leaden skies, he worked manfully with a bedraggled platoon of some 20 Santas who presented themselves for his inspection. Some had hoods, and some bonnets, some fur-lined jackets and others cloaks. They wore gum boots, rather than worn leather like Mr Valent's.

One hid his eyes behind polarised glasses and jangled jewellery from his wrist, and another resolutely refused to don his whiskers, preferring to carry them instead. They included a busker from Bath, a black restaurateur from Blackpool, a preacher from Ireland and a bookseller from Milton Keynes.

Several hoped to get employment as Santas, others were already professionally engaged, and a few insisted that they were just doing the course for fun. Several had resorted to body padding, in many cases positioned so far above the belt that it suggested a sex change.

Mr Valent smiled benignly on them all. "Lift and curl your whiskers to make a smiley face", he advised one. "Ho, ho, ho!"

"Ho, ho, ho," responded the student unenthusiastically.

"Make that more mild and mellow, from right below the belt. Ho, ho, ho! Isn't that great? It's such a lot of fun."

Mr Valent chuckled cheerily, jingling his sleigh bells. Soon he had the Santas in his classroom practising their



Learning the trade from a master: one camera-shy Father Christmas yesterday. "It's such a lot of fun, never look anything but happy and jolly," they were told

"ho, ho, ho" in chorus. Shoulders heaved with enforced jollity, and several false tumblers slipped sideways with the effort. Mr Valent's good humour did not falter.

"Never let Santa look anything but happy, jolly and full of fun," he insisted. "Even when a child pulls your beard, make a joke of it."

His class rehearsed reindeer's names, facts about the

North Pole, the history of Saint Nick, convincing answers to ticklish questions about the reality of whiskers, and how to convince children that one really could squeeze down chimneys.

As a test of the course's success, Tanya Lacey-Solymar, aged 3½, was ushered in. Gary Davis, at 20 stone and 5ft 2in the most naturally rotund of available

Santas, modelled a yellow balloon into a dog for her. Tanya was entranced. Did she believe in Santa? "I believe in them all," she said, eyeing the class in wonder.

After more than two hours, Mr Valent delivered a cheery verdict: "There is nothing wrong with British Father Christmases. Now that I have given them some tips they will perform real well."

## Campaign highlights plight of Asian toy workers

By LIN JENKINS

MANY popular toys bought this Christmas have been made in appalling conditions, according to organisations campaigning for better standards for workers in Asia, where 75 per cent of the toys sold in Britain are made.

The TUC, Catholic Institute for International Relations and World Development Movement claim factories producing toys for the companies who market Barbie and Sindy dolls, Disney characters, Fisher-Price toys, Action Man and Monopoly are failing to meet basic internationally agreed standards.

Researchers say that working conditions in factories subcontracted to produce toys or toy parts are often appalling. Workers, normally women, work a ten-hour day six or seven days a week for poverty wages that do not meet basic needs. They work in conditions dangerous to their health, are prevented from forming unions and often employed on temporary contracts to avoid responsibility for benefits such as holiday or maternity pay. Some of the worst conditions are reported in China and Thailand, where 44 per cent of toys sold in Britain are made.

Researchers visited factories used by leading American toy companies, including Mattel, who make toys for Barbie, Fisher-Price and Disney, and Hasbro, whose products include Sindy, Action Man and Monopoly. They said health and safety standards were inadequate.

The campaigners have been working with the British Toy and Hobby Association and the Toy Manufacturers of Europe to introduce a code for workers. The major manufacturers are American companies and are members of both groups.

The code would include restrictions on working hours, requirements for health and safety and for conditions in factories, with provision for spot checks. Concerns were first raised in 1993 when 188 workers were killed in a fire at a Thai toy factory because the exits were locked.

## Coroner condemns Porsche sales drive that killed three

By A STAFF REPORTER

A SALES demonstration of Porsche cars which ended in the deaths of three people was criticised by a coroner yesterday. An inquest jury returned verdicts of unlawful killing on two of the victims.

Derek Redfern, 57, who was a passenger in a Porsche 911, and Karen Dalley, 22, the driver of a Renault 5, died when the cars collided near the village of Llyswen, Powys.

A verdict of accidental death was returned on the Porsche driver, Gavin Shaw, 30, a car salesman. The cars collided near a hotel being used by the Cardiff car dealers Merlin (Cambria) Ltd for a sales promotion in June.

Gerald Williams, the Powys deputy coroner, said after the verdicts had been read at the Brecon inquest: "It is clear to me from evidence that in the Llyswen area Porsches were being driven at astronomically

high speeds. A number of people were driving recklessly or dangerously.

"I find it deplorable. There seems to be some sort of group hysteria. It is as obvious as night follows day that people were going to die on that day."

Ms Hilary Sykes, the company secretary of Merlin (Cambria), said after the hearing: "Our company has very clear safety policies. In eight years we have never had any fatalities or injuries."

# 20% OFF AT HALFORDS

**20% OFF ALL STACK-ON STORAGE SYSTEMS**

Cabinet Combination SC880

was £124.99

**now only £99.99**

Exclusive accessories

**20% OFF ALL CURVER TOOL BOXES**

16" was £10.99

**now only £8.79**

20" was £14.99

**now only £11.99**

**20% OFF ALL HALFORDS FOOT PUMPS**

Metal Barrel Foot Pump with Gauge

was £9.99

**now only £7.99**

**20% OFF ALL TROLLEY JACKS**

Master Mechanic 2 Ton Trolley Jack T.12000

Conforms to British Standard BS41 194

was £24.99

**now only £19.99**

PLUS **SAVE UP TO £10 ON HALFORDS SOCKET SETS**

## HALFORDS

HOW TO FIND US: PHONE 0245 628625 FOR DETAILS OF YOUR NEAREST SUPERSTORE.  
OPENING TIMES: ALL SUPERSTORES OPEN 9AM-8PM MONDAY-FRIDAY & 9AM-6PM SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.  
HIGH STREET STORES - PLEASE CHECK LOCALLY.  
EXCLUDES EASYAIR PLASTIC FOOT PUMP. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. OFFERS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.  
HALFORDS LIMITED, ICKNIELD STREET DRIVE, WASHFORD WEST, REDDITCH, WORCS. B98 0DE.

## Dixons

### EXCLUSIVE PC SOFTWARE MULTIPACKS

**SPECIAL OFFER**

4 fun learning packs for £39.99

**SAVE OVER £50**

FREE

FUNSCHOOL 4-PACK

Includes: Paint & Create, Maths, Spelling & The Classic Collection - it's the ideal pack for children!

Total Separate Selling Price £94.40

Dixons Deal

**£39.99**

LEMMINGS 4-PACK

'Lemmings', 'Oh No More Lemmings', 'New World of Lemmings' and 'Christmas Lemmings' - can you save the suicidal midgets?

Dixons Deal

**£24.99**

NEW AMAZING VALUE

## Dixons

THE BEST DEALS FOR CHRISTMAS

OVER 350 HIGH STREET BRANCHES NATIONWIDE  
MOST STORES OPEN SUNDAYS.  
TEL: 0181-200 0200 FOR YOUR NEAREST BRANCH

NOW YOU CAN ORDER BY PHONE

Simply call FREEPHONE 0500 50 40 30

ALL MAJOR DEBIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Lines open from 9am weekdays 10am-6pm Saturday & 10am-4pm Sunday Delivery usually within 2 working days (subject to availability)

DELIVERY CHARGE: £3.35 PER ORDER

**EXCLUSIVE**

SIM CLASSICS 2 4-PACK

'Sim Ant', 'Sim Earth', 'Sim Farm' and 'FREE' 'Sim City' NEW

Dixons Deal

**£24.99**

**EXCLUSIVE**

STRATEGY 4-PACK

'Civilisation', 'Frontier Elite 2', 'War in the Gulf' and 'Wing Commander'

Dixons Deal

**£19.99**

**EXCLUSIVE**

SOCCER 4-PACK

'Sensible Soccer', 'Championship Manager', 'Empire Soccer' and 'Striker'

Dixons Deal

**£19.99**

**EXCLUSIVE**

SPORT 4-PACK

'F1 Grand Prix', 'Lenny White's Snooker', 'TGA Tour Golf', 'Adventure Tennis' and 'International Sport Challenge'

Dixons Deal

**£19.99**



## Campaign highlights plight of Asian workers

## Sailors ran up £5,000 phone bill for Navy

By A Staff Reporter

A TEAM of radio operators aboard HMS Ark Royal cheated the Royal Navy out of more than £5,000 in telephone calls, a court martial was told yesterday. Thirteen ratings made dozens of calls without paying while the ship was in the Adriatic last year.

Lieutenant-Commander Nick Hawkins told the hearing at HMS Nelson in Portsmouth that a logging system on the satellite telephone system was widely abused. The fraud came to light when the final bill for the ship's Inmarsat satellite phone system — used to make private calls — did not match the calls sailors claimed they had made in the log book.

He said 25 calls made by Darren Gray had either been logged incorrectly or not at all. Gray, 28, admitted 23 charges of telephone fraud, one charge of wasting police time and one charge of going absent without leave for 160 days.

The radio operator, from Skelmersdale, Lancashire, was discovered to have made more than £1,000 of unpaid calls to three numbers near Wigan — his sister, a former girlfriend and his cousin.

He was dismissed the service and sentenced to 12 months' detention. His pay was stopped until he had paid £1,049 towards the unpaid telephone bill.

Lieutenant-Commander Stuart Crozier, for Gray, said he had admitted he had been wrong in what he had done. "There were 12 other personnel involved. He was not a leader or instigator in abusing the system."

After the court martial, Lieutenant-Commander Hawkins said that ten other ratings had been dealt with summarily and two still faced court martial proceedings.

He said Gray had failed to return to HMS Nelson, where he was based during the investigation into the telephone fraud, in May. He eventually surrendered to police at Skelmersdale on October 10.

## Awards salute those 'making Britain a better place to live, work and invest'



The Prince's schedule yesterday included a visit to a new £1.2 million health centre in Tower Hamlets, east London, where he met an Asian women's embroidery group

## Caring communities earn princely praise

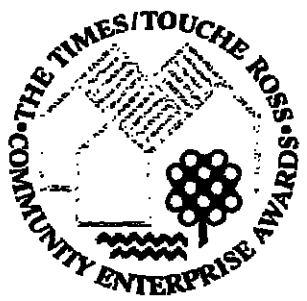
By John Young

AMID the splendour of St James's Palace, London, the Prince of Wales yesterday thanked the leaders of small and often poor communities throughout Britain who had brought new hope to their fellow citizens.

The Prince was presenting the tenth annual Community Enterprise Awards, sponsored by The Times and Touche Ross, the accountants. The top project was a centre that has offered shelter to more than 4,000 homeless young people over ten years.

The Prince told his audience: "My warm thanks go to each of you for your unstinting work in city housing estates, market towns and rural villages. I have the most enormous admiration for all you do. Through your enterprise you are making Britain a better place to live, to work and to invest."

The Prince presented the Charles Douglas-Horne Award — named after a former editor of The Times —



to the Old Chapel Housing and Community Trust in Kirkby in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire. A total of 11 category winners received plaques and cheques. The competition was entered by 575 projects. Other award winners include a gardening project for former psychiatric patients.

Jean Yeomans, who founded the Old Chapel trust in 1985, accepted a £2,500 cheque. The trust offers practical and emotional support, including accommodation, to homeless teenagers.

Mrs Yeomans said: "I understand how it feels to be vulnerable. By the time I was five, both my Dad and Mum were dead. I had an older sister who looked after us, but it wasn't easy. It is so important to show you care."

"The young people here need to know they are secure and valued. I suppose I treat them as my own and they stay here as long as it takes. The prize money will either be used for running and refurbishment costs or towards rebuilding the youth centre."

Old Chapel runs an eight-bedroom hostel and four three-bedroom houses, all run on family lines. At present, it has 35 residents who became homeless because of family, health or alcohol problems.

The Prince yesterday gave another helping hand to local enterprise when he opened a shop in King's Road, Chelsea, stocked entirely by businesses started with grants and loans from his Youth Business Trust.

Leading article, page 21  
Winning projects, page 22



Jean Yeomans receiving the Charles Douglas-Horne Award for the Old Chapel Housing and Community Trust that helps youngsters in Nottinghamshire

## Prince to tell MPs of charity successes

By Alan Hamilton

THE Prince of Wales has invited 34 MPs to St James's Palace today to tell them of his success in tackling social problems that have been the despair of governments.

The Prince, figurehead of a group of charities which have a turnover of £30 million a year and employ 350 full-time staff and 7,000 volunteers, will underline to his all-party guests that his low-profile approach to the problems of inner cities and youth unemployment has a better record of success than government agencies.

The Prince's staff angrily denied suggestions yesterday that the meeting was a public relations attempt to recapture the high ground of social concern from the Princess of Wales, who of late has enjoyed much publicity for her involvement in charity work for the homeless and the terminally ill.

Invitations to the MPs were issued in July, and the Prince held a similar meeting last December to give MPs with a particular interest an annual report on the work of the Prince's Trusts.

"The Prince is not trying to make any political points here; he is continuing existing contacts with MPs who have an interest in his own areas of concern, and bringing them up to date with the very practical help which his charities are providing, particularly to unemployed young people and in inner city areas," a royal spokesman said yesterday.

The MPs invited to St James's Palace include two ministers, James Paice, the junior Education Minister responsible for youth training, and Baroness Blatch, the Home Office Minister responsible for the voluntary sector. Other MPs expected to be present include Clare Short, the Shadow Transport Secretary, Chris Smith, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, and Liz Lynne, the Liberal Democrat spokeswoman on social security.

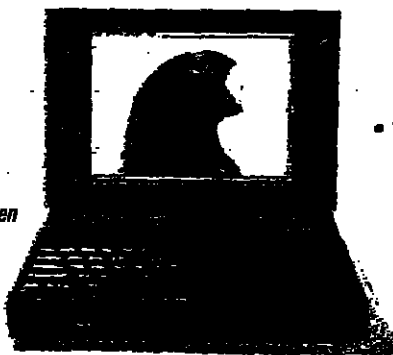
"For the kind of presentations I do, I need sight, sound and the ability to fly."



IBM Solution 43479-J  
a.k.a. 'Built-in CD-ROM drive'

That old dictum: 'You can't take it with you' certainly doesn't apply to the ThinkPad 755CD. Especially when you get lightning-fast colour graphics, 16-bit stereo sound, MIDI compatibility, SoundBlaster capability and built-in CD-ROM. All of which add up to a full-function,

- 486 DX4/100MHz processor (upgradable to Pentium 75MHz)
- 16KB internal cache
- 10.4" black matrix TFT colour screen
- Weight: 7.3lbs (3.3kg)\*\*
- 3-year warranty



- 65,536 simultaneous colours
- 14.4bps data/fax modem capability\*\*\*
- Infrared file transfer capability
- Up to 1.2GB hard drive
- 5.25" dual speed CD-ROM built in

FOR DETAILS ON THINKPAD MOBILE PCs, CALL 0345 72 72 72.

multi-media notebook that should give you at least one less thing in life to squawk about. The ThinkPad 755CD. Just one in a continuing series of innovations pioneered by IBM. And one more reason why there is a difference.

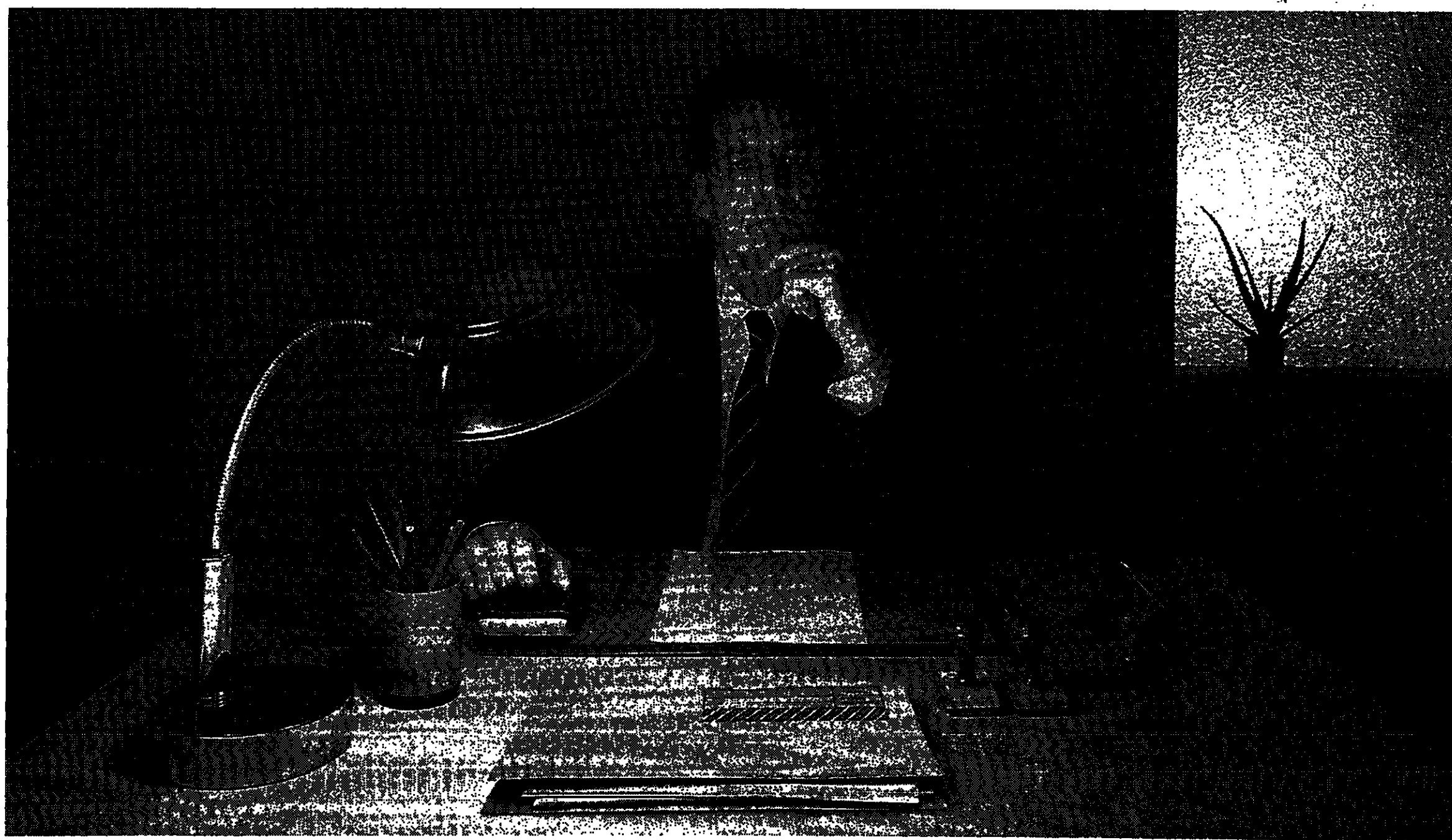
IBM

\*\*Measured diagonally. \*\*\*Includes battery (1-year warranty on battery). Weight may vary. \*\*\*\*Requires optional DMA/Telephone EM. Accessible capacity varies. Pentium is a trademark of the Intel Corporation. IBM Home Page located at <http://www.ibm.com>

# If you want to smoke who should you ask?



**Someone in the same room?**



**Or someone who isn't?**

With courtesy and consideration, smokers and non-smokers can and do work it out for themselves.

**Philip Morris Europe S.A.**

17,000 employees in Europe serving Europe's 97 million smokers.

For information on how smokers and non-smokers can accommodate each other, please write to Philip Morris Corporate Affairs Europe, Rue Joseph II, 166-1040 Brussels, Belgium.



**BY RUSSELL JENKINS AND RICHARD FORD**

"We are firmly of the view that the question whether the appellant did lose or may have lost her self-control at the time of this killing is essentially a matter for a jury to decide. It is not for us," Lord Taylor said. "We consider the public interest requires that issue to be determined." He added that

Jean Murray, sister of the dead man, said: "I am glad that if the original decision could not be upheld there is to be a retrial, so a jury will be able to consider all the facts again. I know it is going to be very hard." Ann Jones, Mr Thornton's second wife, said: "I would like her back in jail. If they do the whole trial and find her not guilty, it will be a waste of taxpayers' money." Mr Thornton's son, Martin, said: "I feel very shaky. I am devastated. I just want a and

Sara Thornton, left, arriving at court yesterday. She had hoped to have her murder conviction reduced to manslaughter.

Mrs Thornton, who has a daughter, was kept in the court cells for two hours yesterday while the paperwork for her two questions of

Ms Nadel has written a book about Mrs Thornton and has worked on a documentary about her to be screened on Channel 4. The programme will not be broadcast until

The solicitors approached Jennifer in the absence of anyone else standing surety and thereby enabled Mrs Thornton to benefit from the court's decision to grant her

baill." A spokeswoman could not say when ITN had been made aware of Ms Nadel's surety. Asked whether it compromised her position as a journalist, the spokeswoman said: "It is totally her own money and is a personal decision."

Law report page 42

## Lesson learnt

**By RICHARD FORD**  
**HOME CORRESPONDENT**

Justice for Women has been in the forefront of a series of campaigns to highlight alleged legal injustices to women. It has eclipsed the Southall Black Sisters and George Delf's

writer, who both initially took up Thornton's case. The organisation helped in the case of Kiranjit Ahluwalia, who served three years for murdering her violent husband but was freed at a retrial after a plea of guilty to manslaughter was accepted.

This summer it was behind the successful appeal by Emma Humphries, who was freed when judges ruled she had been wrongly convicted of murdering her violent boyfriend. For the first time it was established that a defence of provocation can succeed if there is a series of incidents over time which drive a woman to murder.

Justice For Women was founded

In 1991 and is run from a house in Crouch End, north London, on a tight budget. Finance is provided by 1500 subscriptions taken out by supporters and fundraising events at the Conway Hall in central London. Apart from two grants of £3,000 from a little known trust, the organisation has not sought money from central or local government.

Men can become affiliated members but it is a women-only group, helping them organise and claim the credit for combating violence against women. "This is an organisation about domestic violence and domestic violence is about male violence," a spokeswoman said.

Its key figures are Julie Bindel, a

graduate in film studies from the University of North London: Harriet Wistrich, a trainee solicitor and Sarah Maguire, a barrister.

Ms Bindel, 33, was until July this year working on a Home Office project studying the policing of domestic violence. She now teaches film studies.

Miss Wistrich, 35, comes from a notable Labour family. Her father Ernest Wistrich was a former Labour parliamentary candidate and his wife Enid was formerly head of the Greater London Council's censorship unit. Miss Maguire, who worked for three years for Lambeth Council in a unit monitoring domestic violence is a member

of the chambers of Michael Mansfield, QC, who is representing Thornton in her appeal.

Miss Bindel said: "We cannot take up each case but we believe there are at least 50 women serving life sentences whose cases should be looked at again."

She is now preparing to campaign for an appeal for Josephine Smith, married with three children, who shot her husband Brian while he was asleep at their home in King's Lynn, Norfolk.

Her plea of guilty on the grounds of diminished responsibility was rejected and the judge recommended that she serve a minimum of 12 years for murder.

Helen Jones, 27, of Bootle, Liverpool, has given birth to four daughters, weighing between 3lb 11oz and 4lb 11oz, by Caesarean section at Fazakerley Hospital. They were conceived without fertility treatment and all are doing well.

A six-year-old Burmese cat named Cagney, which has a habit of wandering off, has been issued with its own BT charge card number for its collar, so that people who find it can make free calls to alert the owner, Beryl Venters, 66, of Winchester, Hampshire.

**Phonology**

# Ryman

# Tory Euro-rebels threaten revolt on fisheries policy

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government faces an embarrassing rebellion in the Commons on Tuesday with at least ten Tory MPs threatening to defy it on a vote over the European fisheries policy.

The vote will be the first test of the Government's reduced majority of five after the death of Sir David Lighthorn on Tuesday. Technically the Government would be defeated if only three Tory MPs rebelled, provided that the opposition parties turned out in full and voted together.

However, Tory business managers, who have applied a three-line whip, hope that many Labour and Ulster Unionist MPs will be away so that any rebellion will have little effect.

Eight Euro-rebels and a handful of other MPs are planning to table an amendment to Tuesday's debate, which will cover the common fisheries policy among other issues. The amendment will call on the Government to pledge in its election manifesto that Britain will resume control of its fishing waters — in effect abandoning the Common Fisheries Policy.

Their amendment is unlikely to be called, but the MPs, who include many of the former "whipless rebels", said

yesterday that they would vote against the Government or back a Labour amendment if the Government failed to agree to their terms.

The vote could prove a repeat of a similar division in January over the European fisheries policy, when nine rebels voted against the Government, which was saved from defeat only by a split among the Ulster Unionists. Yesterday one of the leading Euro-rebels declared: "We voted against the Government last January and nothing has changed between then and now, so there is no reason why we should not do the same."

Last night Labour confirmed that it would table an amendment criticising the Government's negotiating stance on the common fisheries policy. The amendment will be drafted to attract the support of potential Tory rebels.

Gavin Strang, Shadow Minister of Food, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, claimed that a government defeat would benefit the fishing industry. "Conservative division and isolation in Europe have damaged our fishing industry," he said. "The agreement reached by the Fisheries Council last Christmas was a

disaster from the standpoint of the UK fishing industry. It poses an unacceptable threat to the future of our fishing communities and will cause an unsustainable increase in the pressure upon the fish stocks in these sensitive waters."

Government business managers are sufficiently worried about the vote to have changed the date from Monday night to Tuesday night. The decision followed a meeting yesterday morning between five of the Euro-rebels and Tony Baldry, the Fisheries Minister.

Insiders said that the vote had been moved to Tuesday to try to wrong-foot Labour and Ulster Unionist MPs who might have been planning to go away early for the Commons recess, which starts on Wednesday evening. Official sources denied this.

Mr Baldry agreed to see Christopher Gill, Richard Shepherd, Richard Body, James Wilkinson and Tony Marlow after Mr Gill has complained about the Government's failure to address their concerns. But Mr Baldry rejected all their demands, insisting that the government had agreed to the common fisheries policy and had no plans to change its stand.

## Tamworth braced for political change

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

TAMWORTH, birthplace of the modern Conservative Party, was yesterday mourning the loss of its MP, Sir David Lighthorn.

Since Sir Robert Peel gave his famous Tamworth manifesto to the citizens in the market place more than 150 years ago, this pocket of the Midlands has prided itself on its true blue allegiance. But after Sir David's death on Tuesday, his Staffordshire South East constituency, with its 7,192 majority, looks almost certain to join Labour for the first time.

Sir David's dominant personality was widely credited for having held Tamworth and its outlying farming villages together. He had been MP only since 1983 but as a county councillor, chairman of the district council and managing director of Jaybee Engineering, he was as well known and liked.

While John Major faces a possible parliamentary majority of only three after the new year, grassroots Tories in the constituency face a humiliating by-election defeat. At the Tory headquarters in Tamworth yesterday, Ronald Cook, the chairman, arrived ashen-faced. The Christmas party and ladies'



Tamworth Tories: Sir David and his illustrious forerunner, Sir Robert Peel

tea had to be cancelled — should Christmas cards still be sent out? And he had lost a close friend of 20 years. He could not contemplate a by-election yet.

"I just kept thinking how furious David would be knowing that his death was putting the party majority in jeopardy. He was an old-fashioned loyalist and he was a passionate Tory," he said.

The secretary pointed to a photo of Mr Lighthorn dressed in a top hat and waving a wand, his uniform as Vice-Chamberlain. "Anyone less like a fairy is hard to imagine. He didn't fear anyone but he was very gentle to us." Everyone in the office

enjoyed telling stories of Sir David's days in the whips' office as The Terminator. They recalled how he threatened to turn journalists' glasses into contact lenses and would manhandle recalcitrant MPs.

Bev Booth, chairman of the local branch, said: "David was a bit like a tank. When the going got tough here, we all got behind him."

Local Tories are privately acknowledging that this could be another Tory fiasco. In 30 years Tamworth has almost tripled in size from a quaint market town to a sprawling outpost of Birmingham, studded with tower blocks. Surrounded by

motorways, it has attracted new light industries and a young, more Blairite population.

The Tories failed to win any seats in May's election to Tamworth Borough Council. Labour has been gearing up for the seat since its narrow defeat in 1992. At the borough council meeting on Tuesday night, Labour councillors joined in a minute's silence in memory of Sir David. But the tributes cannot conceal the party's political calculations. A good result is crucial for new Labour to prove that it has won over Middle England.

Obituary, page 23

## MPs back move to tighten knife law

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

MPs yesterday backed a new Bill that aims to tighten the law against carrying knives.

Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats welcomed the move but called for even tougher controls. Some MPs, however, cautioned against bringing forward poorly drafted legislation in a "knee-jerk reaction" to the fatal stabbing of the headmaster Philip Lawrence last week.

The Offensive Weapons Bill, sponsored by Lady Olga Mainland (C, Sutton and Cheam), received its first reading without a vote. The measure, one of several Private Members' Bills introduced yesterday, would enable police to arrest anyone carrying an offensive weapon or knife in public without good reason. They can make an arrest now only if they have a warrant.

The penalty for carrying a knife would also be increased from a £1,000 fine to six months in prison. Carrying an offensive weapon is already punishable with a maximum two-year prison sentence.

Fresh calls for tougher measures have come from all parties after Mr Lawrence's death. Yesterday Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, suggested that the maximum two-year sentence for possession of an offensive weapon could be doubled to four years.

## Benefit system hit by organised crime

BY IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

CRIMINAL groups are increasingly defrauding the benefits system, according to the independent watchdog for council spending.

The Audit Commission says in a report today that not only is the value and number of reported frauds rising "but there is increasing evidence of organised, sophisticated crime, with groups intent on defrauding claimant systems and on committing other types of fraud."

The survey, based on replies from 95 per cent of local authorities, found that the value of identified fraud increased from £34 million in 1993-94 to £46 million last year and the number of cases rose from 83,000 to 112,000. The commission says it does not know to what extent the growth is due to better detection and to what extent it is due to a genuine increase.

Although the commission found councils are getting better at detecting fraud, it criticises them for being disappointingly slow in implementing its three-year-old suggestion to set up independent

audit committees. Only 8 per cent of authorities had done this, while 7 per cent of councils had inadequate or total absence of risk assessment.

The vast majority of detected cases involve benefit fraud, which has grown steadily since 1990 to 110,000 cases involving £40 million last year. Fraud by officers or local politicians remains rare, but non-benefit fraud rose by 14 per cent to 2,300 cases involving £6.2 million last year. "The underlying trend in the incidence of fraud is upwards," the report says.

A clampdown on student grant fraud in London succeeded in not only catching more people but in dissuading others from trying to cheat the system. That explains a 43 per cent decrease in the number of such cases over the year.

The commission gives a warning that the coming introduction of vouchers for nursery places will be particularly vulnerable to abuse.

Protecting the Public Purse: Ensuring Probity in Local Government (Stationery Office: £6)

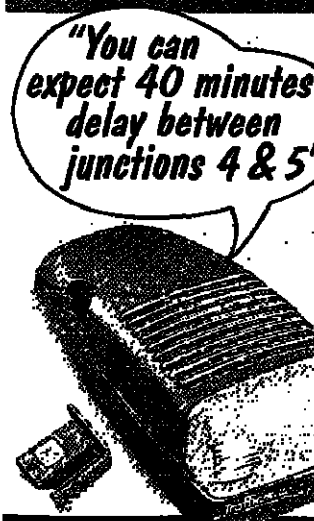
### IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons, debates on the preparation, drafting and publication of Government Bills, working time and family life; reception of BBC Radio Gloucestershire; help for homosexuals with hepatitis C; the future of Army Technical Agency Unit in Malvern. After education and employment questions, the Armed Forces Bill had its second reading.

In the Lords: debates on regulation and operation of privatised utilities; the Learning review of prison security; the Western European Time Bill, committee stage.

TODAY in the Commons: agriculture questions and questions to the Prime Minister. Debates on provision of health services for women with breast cancer; research and the screening programme; financial services regulation. In the Lords: debates on Child Support (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations; Child Support (Compensation for Recipients of Family Credit and Disability Working Allowance) Regulations; Bristol Development Corporation (Area and Constitution) Order; Non-Domestic Rating (Chargeable Amount) (Amendment) Regulations.

**Trust AA Shops to come to your rescue this Christmas**



**AA Shops**

Branches nationwide. For the address of your nearest AA Shop, call 0990 560 600. Offer ends 24 December 1995. Subject to availability.

**Trafficmate** for 24-hour live motorway traffic information as you drive only **£49.99** including free 12-month information key. (Future keys will cost £24.99.) Extra 5% off for AA members

## PC WORLD

THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

# Britain's biggest and best choice of computers.

### SAVE OVER £30

#### MULTIMEDIA PC AND COLOUR INKJET PRINTER

**PACKARD BELL 905D MULTIMEDIA**

- Intel Pentium 75MHz processor.
- 8Mb RAM, 528Mb hard disk.
- Quad speed CD-ROM drive, 3D stereo soundcard & speakers.
- Over £1000 worth of software.

**HEWLETT PACKARD DESKJET 660**

- 600 x 300 DPI resolution.
- Up to 4 pages per minute output.
- Includes Disney Print Studio.

**£1599 EX VAT**

### INTRODUCTION TO MULTIMEDIA COMPUTING FOR THE HOME

This Sunday 10-10.30am and 10.30-11am (except Sprucefield)\*

A free presentation that explains the role of a PC in the home today, how to choose, how to use and the benefits of multimedia for all the family.

**PHONE 0990 464464 TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE.**

\*Sprucefield 11-11.30am and 11.30-12pm.

### PORTABLE PCs FROM £799 EX VAT

**ACER** SAVE £100

486 DX4 75MHz processor, 4Mb RAM, 340Mb hard disk, 9.5" mono display, 21pin II PCMCIA slots, Windows 95.

MODEL: ACERNOTE 7671 MONO

**£799 EX VAT**

**TOSHIBA** NEW

486 DX4 75MHz processor, 4Mb RAM, 350Mb hard disk, 9.5" mono display, 21pin II PCMCIA slots, MS DOS 6.22, Windows 95.

MODEL: T2110 MONO

**£999 EX VAT**

### PRINTERS - OVER 50 MODELS

**HEWLETT PACKARD** SAVE £40

Colour Inkjet Printer.

600 x 300 DPI resolution, 1 page per minute print speed, HP ColorSmart software, Was £239.

MODEL: HP 496.

**£199 EX VAT**

**NEC** SAVE £20

GDI Laser Printer.

300 x 300 DPI resolution, 4 pages per minute print speed, Free CorelDraw v4, Was £299.

MODEL: SUPERScript 610.

**£279 EX VAT**

**EPSON** NEW

Colour Inkjet Printer.

720 DPI resolution, Up to 4 pages per minute colour output, Apple Macintosh RS422 Interface, IBM compatible.

MODEL: STYLUS II

**£299 EX VAT**

**HEWLETT PACKARD 4 IN 1**

Multifunction Printer.

Handles several functions at once: Printer, fax machine, copier and scanner. HP resolution enhancement technology.

MODEL: OFFICEJET LX

**£499 EX VAT**

**HEWLETT PACKARD** SAVE £80

Inkjet Printer.

600 x 600 DPI resolution, Up to 6 pages per minute print speed, Colour resolution enhancement technology, Was £579.

MODEL: DISCOVER

**£399 EX VAT**

\*Based on current selling prices of actual or equivalent titles (excluding disks and manuals for pre-loaded software). \*When bought with Packard Bell PCs normal instore price £209. Intel and Pentium logos are trademarks of Intel Corporation.



Cabinet ordered to make bigger effort

## Major rallies his ministers for a Christmas war

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR has ordered a Christmas blitz by ministers to try to regain the political initiative from Labour.

The Prime Minister, who is said to be disappointed that his re-election as party leader has produced no discernible upturn in Tory fortunes, has told Cabinet colleagues that he wants a salvo of announcements over the holiday.

Mr Major is said to be irritated by what he regards as the inactivity of his ministers. He wants them to take a higher profile and be more effective in countering Tory grumbling that with a light and uncontroversial legislative programme the Government is drifting towards the election.

He has even said that if they have nothing new to say they should just off past announcements that had little impact on the media, freshen them up and present them as new. It is understood that Mr Major delivered his pep talk at a recent meeting of ministers.

According to one source, he said: "We haven't been doing and saying enough. I want a bigger effort over Christmas

when the Opposition has gone home."

The Prime Minister's move comes against a background of tension among senior ministers over the Government's propaganda effort. The efforts of Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, to give a sharper political edge to Conservative Central Office's campaigning have already run into difficulties with Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, who repudiated a newspaper report based on a briefing from party officials. But *The Times* has been told that other ministers are resentful at what they regard as Dr Mawhinney's trespassing on their territory.

Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, is said to have clashed with the party chairman, who has been critical of his emphasis on public transport at the expense of roads and cars. Michael Heseltine's efforts to co-ordinate ministers' activities are also proving a source of friction. Ministers' diaries have been put on the Deputy Prime Minister's computer. In his capacity as the chairman of

the Cabinet committee in charge of co-ordinating and presenting policy, Mr Heseltine is seeking to tinker with the daily timetable to give higher billing for some ministers at the expense of others.

Mr Major's input is different again, placing his emphasis on the need to galvanise ministers and their Whitehall departments into dominating the news agenda through a flood of announcements. Critics say Mr Major fails to appreciate that unless he is prepared to allow his ministers to make waves, more mundane efforts to look busy will be ignored by the media.

Dr Mawhinney, seen by his admirers at the toughest and most effective party chairman since Norman Tebbit, is understood to have denied adamantly reports that the clanger over Lord Mackay's phantom speech led to a row between the two men. But with his six-month honeymoon as chairman clearly over, he badly needs a public relations success to raise morale at Central Office and more widely in the party.

Some senior Tories are say-



ing that although he is widely seen as a close ally of the Prime Minister, he does not have the access to Downing Street that he is entitled to expect. They also say that Mr Major is not giving him the support he should.

The appointment of a new chief media spin doctor at Central Office is imminent and Dr Mawhinney is said to

be confident of announcing a name before Christmas.

Many senior ministers believe that Labour's high poll ratings are partly due to the sophistication of its media operation and the impact that Alastair Campbell, Tony Blair's press secretary, has had. They expect the Tory chairman to hire someone with similar skills and commitment. But the Tories are also preparing to query suggestions that Mr Campbell would, on the election of a Labour government, double up as the Prime Minister's press secretary and the chief Labour spokesman. Senior ministers say it would be impossible to act in such a way without compromising the impartiality of the Civil Service.

## Will to survive is what counts for Tories now

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The greatest threat to the survival of the Major Government is not the steady disappearance of its Commons majority as a result of by-election defeats, but is, much more, a possible loss of its will to survive. The death of Sir David Lightowler and the virtual certainty of the loss of his Staffordshire South East seat in a spring by-election does not of itself increase the chances of a general election next year rather than in spring 1997.

It could still take some time for even the Tories' current slim majority to disappear. Not only do another three Tory MPs have to die, but there is also then a gap of up to three months before a by-election occurs. Moreover, it is not a simple Tory versus Labour calculation. There are 50 other MPs in the Commons, who seldom all turn out. Hence, the Government's normal majority is much more than its nominal margin of five, and is often nearer its lead of 30 over Labour and the Liberal Democrats combined.

Governments can survive for quite a long time with a very slim, or no, overall majority. Labour held on for 19 months in 1950-51 with a majority of six for 17 months in 1964-66 with a margin of three; for seven months in 1974 in a minority; and for nearly two and a half years in 1976-79 in a minority. What mattered in each case was the direction of the political wind rather than precise parliamentary numbers. Governments lose office when they appear to have lost the political initiative and their opponents see advantage in bringing them down.

The minority Callaghan Government survived for so long in the late 1970s because it was not in the interests of, initially, the hatered Liberals, then reeling from the Jeremy Thorpe affair, and, later, the nationalists to bring down Labour. It was only after the referendum on devolution at the beginning of March 1979 that the Scottish Nationalists were willing to press a no confidence motion. The current legislative programme has been designed to minimise the risks not only of all the opposition

parties voting together but also of Tory rebellions.

The Government's real vulnerability is internal — in the growing acceptance by senior ministers that after so many years in office the public mood has shifted and the Tories are doomed to defeat. Private conversations with all but the most gung ho quickly turn to what will happen when, not if, the Tories lose the election.

There are parallels not just with the defeatism at the end of the minority Callaghan Government of 1977-79 after the winter of discontent, but also with the Attlee Government of 1950-51, which went to the polls despite having an overall majority of half a dozen. Many senior members of that Government were then old and sick as well as tired, having served continuously in office for 11 years, starting in the wartime coalition. The Government saw an election almost as a release even though the short-term economic and international backgrounds were bad. If it had managed to survive the winter of 1951-52, Labour would have benefited from better financial and economic news. But it was, and looked, a Government whose time was up, even though Labour recorded its highest ever popular vote at the subsequent election.

The Tories now look in better shape, at least physically. Reshuffles have resulted in some new faces at the top, even if few are inspiring. However pessimistic many ministers are in private, it is hard to see, say, Michael Howard or Malcolm Rifkind giving up office as Labour did in 1951. John Major retains both a steely determination and a resilience. He has proved to be the great political survivor. But the main threat to that survival lies not in Commons votes but in the attitudes of his fellow ministers and Tory MPs. There is an aura of defeat about the Government.

PETER RIDDELL

## This Christmas take a look at PC World. You can't afford not to!

**INTEREST FREE OPTION**  
on all desktop and portable PCs.

**LOW PRICES EVERYDAY**  
5000 COMPUTER PRODUCTS

**TECHNICAL CENTRES**  
Specially trained staff for upgrades, configurations and installations.

**EXPERT ADVICE**  
Try before you buy with hands on demos and advice from our expert staff.

**INSTANT AVAILABILITY**  
5,000 computer products, available for you to take away today.

**BUSINESS CENTRES**  
All the products and back-up support to meet your business needs.

### PERIPHERALS - OVER 1000 PRODUCTS

**MODEMS** **NEW**  
US Robotics Voice Enabled. V.32 bis fax modem. Complete communications solution. Fax, phone, data and voice mail. Cables & software included.  
**£99 EX VAT**

**HARD DRIVES** **FROM**  
Master hard drives. 1.5GB with free dummy book. 1.5GB with free dummy book. 1.5GB with free dummy book.  
**£159 EX VAT**

**ZIP DRIVES** **NEW**  
100Mb external floppy drive system. Speed of a hard drive. Ideal for backup or transferring massive amounts of data.  
**£179 EX VAT**

**SCANNERS** **NEW**  
Logitech Colour page scanner. 24 bit colour scanner. Up to 400 DPI scan resolution. Up to 6 pages per minute. Never perfect scan technology.  
**£349 EX VAT**

### SOFTWARE - OVER 1200 TITLES

**11TH HOUR** **NEW**  
Sequel to 7th Hour. Amazingly realistic graphics and fantastic gameplay in this truly interactive adventure game.  
**£29 EX VAT**

**DISNEY PRINT STUDIO** **NEW**  
100 King Disney's ten crating posters, calendars, birthday cards and many more. All your favourite Disney characters and friends. Full range of titles in stock.  
**£30 EX VAT**

**EP 2000** **NEW**  
EUROFIGHTER Sequel to TFX. Try the top secret European Superplane. Amazing graphics with superb scenery.  
**£32 EX VAT**

**ENCARTA '96** **NEW**  
Microsoft's new, British 1996 version of the complete 28 volume encyclopedia on one CD-ROM. 27,000 articles ranging from animals to zoology.  
**£42 EX VAT**

### STORES NATIONWIDE 0990 464 464

ABERDEEN BIRMINGHAM BRISTOL CARDIFF COLCHESTER EDINBURGH	LEEDS LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER NORTHAMPTON PORTSMOUTH READING	SLOUGH SOUTHAMPTON SPRUCEFIELD STOKE LONDON AREA BRENTFORD	CROYDON ENFIELD GUILDFORD LAKESIDE MEDWAY STAPLES CORNER	OPENS THIS SATURDAY GLASGOW FINNIESTON STREET
---	--	---	---	---

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**  
TRADING HOURS: 9AM TO 8PM WEEKDAYS - 9AM TO 6PM SATURDAY.  
11AM TO 5PM SUNDAY (EXCEPT SPRUCEFIELD).

**PC WORLD**  
THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

**6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION OR 48 MONTHLY REPAYMENTS**  
Ask for details. Account to only interest free if repaid in full before the 6th monthly payment. Typical example: cash price £1,000. No deposit, loan amount £1,000. Either pay 6 monthly payments of £23.07 and the balance of £801.58 within 6 months: total amount payable £1,000 APR 27.8% OR 48 monthly repayments of £23.07 (total amount payable £1,587.36 APR 27.8%).  
Subject to status. Written quotations available on request from:  
DEPT IFD/MC/PCW, MAYLANDS AVENUE, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, HP3 7TG.  
APR 27.8%  
\*Sprucefield trading hours: 9am-9pm weekdays, 9am-9pm Saturdays and 12pm-5pm Sundays.  
VAT WILL BE CHARGED AT 17.5%.

## Stationery Office to be privatised

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

HANSARD, the official record of parliamentary proceedings for the past 200 years, is to be privatised and the familiar symbol of Her Majesty's Stationery Office will disappear from government documents.

The Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, has expressed reservations about the sell-off and MPs will debate the proposal next week.

Roger Freeman, the Public Services Minister, told the Commons yesterday that he expected the Stationery Office to be sold by next summer. The HMSO name was not up for sale, but the purchasers will probably be entitled to call

themselves "the Queen's printers".

For Labour, Derek Foster dismissed the move as "Tory dogma". MPs also voiced concern about the security of government documents, including budget papers, and the possibility of leaks.

The Stationery Office employs 2,800 staff and has an annual turnover of £340 million. Mr Freeman said: "Job losses are likely unless HMSO is able to seek new sales opportunities. The business will benefit from access to wider markets. Staff will benefit from the increased security of a thriving business."

## Trust AA Shops to come to your rescue this Christmas

**Footpumps • Wheelwrenches •**  
**Chambers Demisting Pads •**  
**Digital Tyre Gauges •**  
**Warning Triangles •**  
**AA Be-jeers •**  
**Squabblers •**  
**First Aid Kits •**

**Life Hammers •**  
**Simoniz Be-jeers •**  
**Be-jeers •**  
**Washes • Ice Scrapers •**  
**Giant Scale UK Atlases •**  
**Extra 5% off for AA members**

**Buy any 2 get 1 FREE**  
Select any three of these items and get the lowest priced item FREE.

AA Shops

Branches nationwide. For the address of your nearest AA Shop, call 0990 500 600.  
Offer ends 24 December 1995. Subject to availability.







European Commission told to stop release of Connolly material to media

## Brussels loses court skirmish with rebel

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission has lost an initial legal skirmish in its battle with Bernard Connolly, the British official with renegade views on monetary union who was suspended from his post for attacking the project in a book.

In an injunction, the European Court instructed the Commission to take all necessary measures to ensure that no further information on Mr Connolly's career, personality, opinions, health or reputation reach the media.

Mr Connolly's lawyers had sought the action from the Luxembourg court on the ground that Jacques Santer, the Commission President, and his staff had made personally damaging statements in September after he published *The Rotten Heart of Europe*, his attack on the scheme at the heart of Maastricht.

However, in its ruling on Tuesday, the court rejected Mr Connolly's request for damages to be awarded for any future breach by Commission officials.

"The court appears to be in agreement with us on the main point of our request, that there should be no more misplaced remarks about me," Mr Connolly

said yesterday. A Commission tribunal is about to hear the case against Mr Connolly, 46, who faces charges that he breached rules requiring officials to seek permission to publish books and acted against the interests of the Community.

Mr Connolly, who is still nominally head of the unit monitoring the exchange-rate mechanism, could be dismissed for an action that is deemed by some Commission officials to have been tantamount to sacrilege. With the backing of a staff union, Mr Connolly has also asked the European Court to rule the disciplinary action invalid.

The injunction, issued by lower court judges at Luxembourg, said the Commission was not at fault in reporting that Mr Connolly would be disciplined because his conduct in publishing the book was an acknowledged fact.

However, it held the Commission responsible for failing to prevent disparaging remarks, quoted in the media, by unnamed officials. That suggested a poor grasp of the Commission's duty to "ensure that civil servants should not become the object of statements likely to bring

into question their honour or professional reputation". The politically sensitive Connolly affair has caused severe irritation in the Brussels executive of the EU at a time when it is battling to promote support for the monetary project among an increasingly sceptical European public.

Mr Connolly has been barred from Commission premises and, according to some colleagues, has been relegated to the rank of "non-person". Commission officials are aware that a decision to dismiss Mr Connolly would be certain to provoke indignation in Britain. Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the Commissioner for Monetary Affairs, said in an interview last week that he had not even heard of Mr Connolly.

The European Court is not expected to take up Mr Connolly's main action, against the Commission's disciplinary action, for six months. A European civil servant since the late 1970s, the Oxford-educated Mr Connolly does not dispute the fact that he did not seek permission to publish his book, written on unpaid leave. However, he intends to contest the Commission's accusation that he breached its rules.



Bernard Connolly who is said to be treated as a "non-person" by the European Commission over his attacks on a single currency

## Single currency to test resolve of Euro leaders

BY PHILLIP WEBSTER, GEORGE BROCK AND CHARLES BREMNER

JOHN MAJOR is to warn European Union leaders against the "price of error" in drawing up plans for a single currency that may leave a majority of members out in the cold.

The Prime Minister is flying to Madrid tonight for the two-day European Council summit, hoping to win agreement for a detailed study into the implications of pressing ahead with economic and monetary union in January 1999 at a time when many countries in the EU will be either unwilling or unable to join.

The summit of 15 EU leaders looks likely to agree to Mr Major's plan for a study to be carried out by European finance ministers, including Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Mr Clarke, the Cabinet's leading pro-European, is among those ministers convinced that Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and President Chirac are determined to press ahead with the 1999 starting state, irrespective of economic difficulties in France, and believes that Britain must plan accordingly.

Mr Major has told friends that if the EU failed to carry out a far-reaching inquiry into the impact of a single currency on the single market and the common agricultural policy it would be sleepwalking to the biggest economic change since the Gold Standard. Yesterday, sources close to him said: "In his view, further work ought to be done by the member states on a single currency before it would be prudent to go ahead. The price of error would be too high for Europe, individually or collectively."

Robin Cook, the shadow Foreign Secretary, has urged Conservative pro-Europeans to assert themselves against the "Europhobes". In *The Times* today, he says there is a cross-party majority in Parliament for "constructive engagement". The question is whether those Tories who know that Britain's future lies in Europe will be willing to assert that majority. "It requires them to show the courage to save Britain from being marginalised in Europe and to save their own party from a retreat into narrow nationalism."

As he goes to Madrid, Mr

Major is also facing the prospect of a Commons rebellion next week on EU fishing policy. With the Government's majority cut to five, after the death of Sir David Lightbown, ministers are facing a tight vote. Up to ten Tories may side with Labour.

During the summit, beginning tomorrow, the EU leaders are expected to agree on calling any new currency as the "Euro". The summit will also discuss the vexed issue of the future shape of the Union.

On the single currency, Mr Major's hidden agenda is his hope that debate over the difficulties of creating a single currency will throw up problems that force countries in the leading group to slow down. British officials hope the European Monetary Institute, the forerunner of a European Central Bank, might conclude



## Islamic Turkish party attacks 'rag and bone' deal with EU

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE leader of Turkey's Islamic party attacked a trade pact between Ankara and the European Union, ratified yesterday, as a "rag-and-bone" deal that he would not recognise if he came to power in elections later this month.

The Anatolian News Agency quoted Necmettin Erbakan, the Welfare Party leader, as saying that the customs union "is against the constitution. The country wasn't asked about it, no one was."

The European Parliament voted heavily in favour of the customs union deal with 343 deputies for, 149 against and 36 abstaining. It gives Turkey some of the closest links to the EU of any non-member country. The Welfare Party, expected to do well at the general

elections, has long opposed the deal outright but has said recently it may renegotiate the pact if it forms a government. Mr Erbakan's party advocates loosening Turkey's ties to the West and setting up an Islamic common market. Euro MPs had threatened to veto the deal on human rights grounds.

Tansu Ciller, the Turkish Prime Minister, said it was the first step towards full EU membership.

The deal, which goes into force on January 1, gives Turkey some of the most privileged ties to the EU of any non-member country. Both sides will remove tariffs affecting the other's industrial products. The vote is expected to give a boost to Mrs Ciller at general elections on December 24. She has pursued customs union as a key project. She toured the streets of Istanbul yesterday waving to passers-by from a campaign bus as the result of the vote was announced through the loudspeakers. Schools in Ankara held celebratory ceremonies.

The customs union will help to double EU exports to Turkey over five years and will increase investment in Turkey, the European Commission has predicted.

But if Turkey fails to make progress on human rights or takes a step backwards, the European Parliament could block future aid, said Abel Mahutes, the chairman of the European Parliament's foreign affairs committee.

## Presidential aides reject Whitewater subpoena

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE White House faced a constitutional clash with Congress yesterday after formally refusing to release documents subpoenaed by the Senate Whitewater Committee.

President Clinton's advisers cited arguments used by President Nixon during the Watergate scandal to justify their refusal, but the Senate is now expected to challenge that in court. Defying the subpoena is a risk for the President as it contradicts past promises to co-operate fully with all Whitewater investigations.

Mark Fabiani, the associate White House counsel, said the subpoena was "not about seeking the truth — it is about inflicting political damage on the President". Alfonso D'Amato, the committee's Republican chairman, responded by calling the President's refusal to comply with the subpoena "an attempt to stonewall... the public will be outraged".

The documents are records of a meeting between seven of Mr Clinton's senior aides and lawyers in November 1993 shortly after the White House received inside information about two supposedly independent criminal investigations into the Whitewater affair. Republicans suspect the records show how the White House planned to use that improperly obtained information to impede the investigations. The White House contends that the meeting's purpose was simply to brief the Clintons' new personal lawyer.

Mr Clinton's lawyers told the committee the records were covered both by attorney-client privilege and executive privilege, which protects confidential advice to the President. The Supreme Court recognised the principle of executive privilege when President Nixon invoked it to try to protect his Watergate tapes in 1974, but ruled that it did not extend to discussions of illegal matters and ordered him to surrender the tapes.

## There's something for everyone this Christmas at Burberrys.

© Burberrys Limited 1995

With a wealth of gift ideas all under one roof, dog-coats from £25, there is no better place to do all your family's shopping.

LONDON: Haymarket. Regent Street. 2 Brompton Road, Knightsbridge.  
SCOTLAND: Princes Street, Edinburgh. Buchanan Street, Glasgow. Union Street, Aberdeen.  
Halkett Place, Jersey.

**Burberrys**  
OF LONDON

For Mail Order information please telephone 0171 930 7803

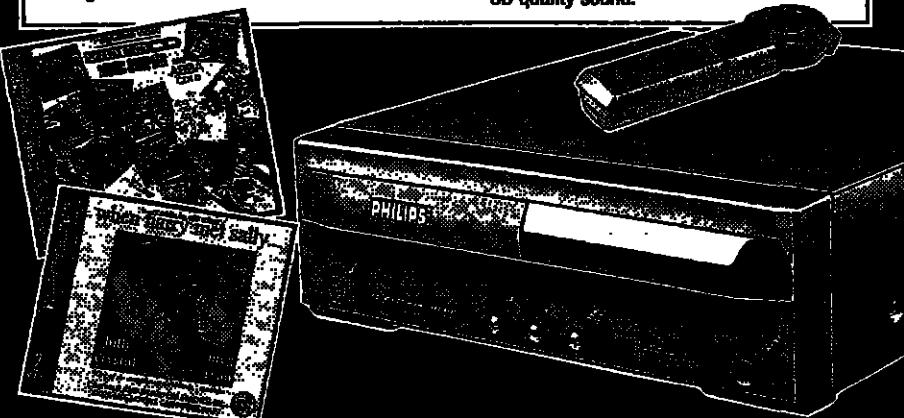
# PLUS 10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT ON CD-i AT COMET

### THE ALL-IN-ONE INTERACTIVE SYSTEM

Superb features now available on CD include:

- THE LATEST RANGE OF GAMES WITH STUNNING GRAPHICS
- BLOCKBUSTER MOVIES ON VIDEO CD The latest CD releases in full digital stereo.
- STEREO MUSIC VIDEO CDs Plays all your existing CDs as well as a wide range of Music Video CDs available in-store.

- PHOTO ALBUM ON CD The safest way to store, edit and take prints of all your favourite photos, produced in conjunction with Kodak.
- INTERACTIVE EDUCATION CDs Interactive CDs are the fun way to learn. There's a great range of titles to choose from, and the benefits of digital video and CD quality sound.



**PHILIPS CD-i PLAYER** INCLUDES BUILT-IN DIGITAL VIDEO CARTRIDGE With FREE CD-i music disc plus the hit movie 'When Harry Met Sally'. Model: 470 10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT\*

THE COMET PRICE

£399.99

NEW

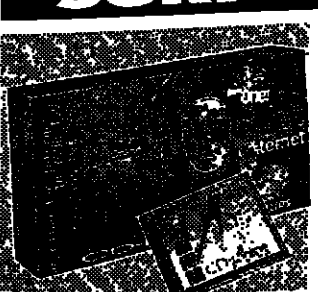
**PHILIPS CD-i PLAYER** Price includes: Digital Video Cartridge (RRP £79.99). PLUS: Four Weddings and a Funeral, Complete Encyclopedia, Mad Dog McCree, The Legend of Zelda, and Nature Under Tensai. Model: 314. Separate selling price £249.99. Software RRP £219.99. 10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT\*

PACKAGE PRICE

£499.85

SAVE £250

### SURF THE NET ON CD-i



**CD-i INTERNET CONNECTION PACK** You don't need a PC to Surf the Internet. All you need is a TV, CD-i Player, and this Starter Pack for just £99.99\*. Then you can browse the Worldwide Web, explore news groups, send and receive E-Mail, and much, much more.

**PACK COMPRESES:**

- 14.4 modem compatible with any CD-i player
- Telephone splitter/adaptor
- CD on-line disc. In-store price £99.99

**PLUS SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER OF 6 MONTHS SUBSCRIPTION FOR THE PRICE OF 4\***

THE COMET PRICE

£99.99

SEE THE COMET PRICE INDEX DAILY ON Teletext Ch.4 P.425

# BETTER COME TO COMET

this Christmas

MOST STORES OPEN SUNDAY & UNTIL 8PM WEEKDAYS. RING FREE ON 0500 560570

# Chirac rallies his troops behind the Thatcher line

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

IN AN echo of Margaret Thatcher at her most determined, President Chirac yesterday told ministers to stand firm on welfare reform despite the continuing strikes and insisted: "There is no alternative."

That Thatcherite phrase, which earned the former Prime Minister the acronym and nickname Tina, indicated that M Chirac is also not for turning. But the French President also called on his Government to seek "dialogue and negotiation" with the strikers as Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, offered another important concession to striking civil servants.

In a fresh bid to end the conflict, M Juppé promised that there would be no change in the retirement age for civil servants, nor in the way their state pensions are calculated — a pledge he has made to striking train drivers.

M Juppé also said that he would preside over a "social summit" with employers and unions on employment issues on December 21 and pledged to hold talks on restructuring the state-owned rail system "starting from square one".

M Chirac, seeking to rally his troops behind the welfare reform package, said: "We have not been elected to bring about the decline of France. We must steer a steady course. I have confidence in the Government's pursuit of this policy, quite simply because there is no other way."

He dismissed charges that the Government's drive to reduce France's deficit in time for European monetary union had precipitated the crisis by prompting fears of mass job losses. "This is not debate over Europe versus jobs. The choice is between deficits and jobs," M Chirac said.

A vote of no confidence in the Government was easily defeated on Tuesday night, clearing the way for one of M Juppé's key reforms, a new income tax to begin paying off the vast social security debt.

"There is no longer any reason for the strike," M Juppé said. Unions last night called for new strikes and further protest marches, claiming that more than two million people took to the streets of France on Tuesday to oppose the planned overhaul of the social security system in the largest

demonstration of the conflict. Many public sector workers returned to work yesterday, but the protest movement showed little sign of abating as union leaders called for another day of action with renewed strikes and demonstrations on Saturday.

Most unions have vowed to press on with the strikes, but their demands have begun to diverge. The Communist-led CGT union renewed calls for the Juppé welfare plan to be withdrawn, while Marc Blondel, head of the Force Ouvrière, also demanded "global negotiations" over unemployment and wages. The largest teachers' union is pressing for an end to the strike, as is the Christian CFDT union.

Public transport remained at a standstill in Paris, Marseilles, Toulouse and Bordeaux, where rubbish began piling up in the streets due to a week-long strike by dustmen.

Brussels: Thousands of Belgian public sector workers brought central Brussels to a standstill yesterday afternoon as they protested against impending government budget cuts. (Reuters)



Sir Peter Inge, accompanied by Nicholas Soames, gives details in London yesterday of the composition of the British forces in Bosnia.

## British forces on alert to arrest war criminals

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT, AND BEN MACINTYRE

BRITISH soldiers who are being sent behind Serb lines as part of the Nato-led peace implementation force will be under orders to arrest indicted war criminals if they cross paths.

Elements of the 13,000-strong British military force being prepared for Bosnia-Herzegovina are to be based

in several key Serb locations and eventually will be sent to Banja Luka, the Serb stronghold in the North.

The tough role for the British troops, who will have responsibility for the largest section of Bosnia, in the southwest, was outlined yesterday by Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, the Chief of the Defence Staff. They would be expected to arrest any indicted war criminal who arrived at a British checkpoint, he said.

General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb army commander who was indicted for war crimes in July, frequently visited Banja Luka. Sir Peter said it was clear that if General Mladic turned up at a British roadblock, there would be "strategic consequences". However, he emphasised that British troops would not be expected to search for war criminals. "That is not one of their tasks."

Nicholas Soames, Armed Forces Minister, said Britain would work closely with the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague. But in New York last night a diplomatic tussle broke out when Russia objected to the provision authorising the detention of war criminals.

As France prepared to host today's formal signing cere-

mony of the Dayton peace accord, Charles Millon, the Defence Minister, said that Paris would have refused to sign the Bosnian peace treaty if its pilots held captive by the Bosnian Serbs had not been released on Tuesday. Captain Frédéric Chiffot and Lieutenant José Souvignat remained under medical observation in a Paris hospital.

Despite reports that the pilots were being held by General Mladic as a bargaining tool to prevent his prosecution for war crimes, Paris insisted yesterday that there had been no deal. "There is no question about it. No concession was made," M Millon

said, adding that President Milosevic of Serbia had instigated their release.

Apart from Banja Luka, the British troops will also be responsible for 2,000 square kilometres which have to be transferred from Muslim-Croat Federation control to the Serbs.

Britain's main combat force will be the 4th Armoured Brigade, with two squadrons of Challenger 1 tanks from The Queen's Royal Hussars, the 2nd Battalion Light Infantry with Warrior armoured vehicles, 1st Battalion Royal Regiment of Fusiliers with Saxons, three batteries of the 155mm AS90 gun from 26

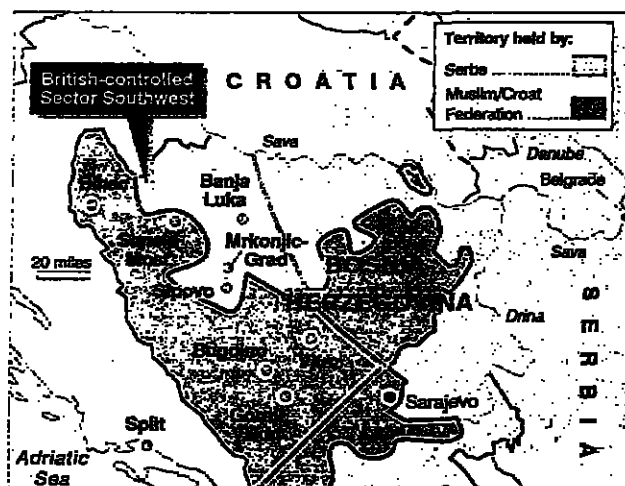
Regiment Royal Artillery and one light 105mm gun-battery taken from 26 Commando Regiment.

The RAF and Royal Navy will continue to play a crucial role in providing protection and maintaining the air exclusion zone and arms embargo. The aircraft carrier, HMS *Illustrious*, now in the Adriatic under national control, will switch to Nato command and will link with the American carrier, USS *America*, and the French carrier, *Clemenceau*, to form a joint strike force.

Washington: The Senate was expected to give grudging support to the deployment of 20,000 American troops yesterday after President Clinton pledged that America would lead efforts to arm and train the region's Muslim forces (Tom Rhodes writes).

On the eve of his trip to Paris, Mr Clinton sent a letter of assurance to Robert Dole, the Senate majority leader, designed to pave the way for congressional approval for the mission.

The President's promise is unlikely to please Britain and other Nato allies who have argued that the arming and training programme will undermine the Dayton agreement and could result in a prolonged Western mission in the Balkans.



**PULL THE PRIZE CRACKER!**  
Every box of Debenhams crackers contains a voucher ranging from £1 to £1,000

**It's a gift!**

**UP TO 25% OFF**

**4 DAYS ONLY**  
THURSDAY TO SUNDAY  
14th-17th DECEMBER

Seasonal savings throughout the store

**10% OFF ALL TOYS**

- 25% OFF ALL** Debenhams silk ties
- 25% OFF ALL** Debenhams co-ordinated shirt and tie sets
- 20% OFF ALL** Debenhams Christmas decorations, cards, Christmas crackers and Debenhams gift foods
- 10% OFF ALL** Debenhams ladies knitwear
- 10% OFF ALL** Debenhams, J. Taylor and Tula leather handbags
- 10% OFF ALL** Debenhams & Jon Richard costume jewellery
- 10% OFF ALL** Gossard ladies co-ordinated underwear
- 10% OFF ALL** Men's and ladies Levi's, Wrangler, Lee, Pepe and Easy jeans

OPEN A DEBENHAMS ACCOUNT  
AND SAVE 10% IMMEDIATELY

Open a Debenhams account\* in store and save 10% off selected items for one week. See instore for details.

\*Account opening is subject to status. Full written details of the Debenhams account are available upon request. †No purchase necessary. See instore for details. (This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount offer or voucher promotion).

Most offers available at most Debenhams stores including Browns of Chester. Stock subject to availability.

At Christmas

THE DIFFERENCE IS  
DEBENHAMS

**DEBENHAMS**

**Great presents, not deer.**

Our Price stores are full of great value CD & video gift ideas.

**our price great ideas.**



Return to communism 'means four-hour queues for meat and sausages'

## Chernomyrdin pledges 1996 as year of growth

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

THE Russian Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, made a final appeal to his electorate yesterday to back his reformist policies and said that a communist victory could lead the country to ruin.

In a rare press conference, the head of the Russian Government vowed to continue his economic liberalisation programme whatever the result of Sunday's parliamentary election, and promised there would be "no U-turn" to socialism.

"The year 1996 must and will become the first year of economic growth in Russia," the head of the centrist Our Home is Russia party said. "The retreat has stopped, we have started moving forward." His confidence is partly justified by his impressive record over the past year when he succeeded in stabilising the rouble and bringing down the inflation rate. The economic reforms have won him many supporters in the West and among Russia's emerging urban middle class, who will back him in the polls.

However, the transition has also been painful for millions of Russians who have seen education, health and social services collapse, and who look back fondly on the relative stability of the Soviet era.



RUSSIAN ELECTION

Mr Chernomyrdin conceded that the communists would do well in the elections, but he remained confident that his Government, which is appointed by the head of state, would stay in power to pursue its reformist policies.

Even President Yeltsin has hinted that if the Government's centrist and reformist supporters are beaten by the leftist and nationalist opposition, he may feel compelled to replace his Prime Minister with a hardliner.

Mr Chernomyrdin left little doubt what a return to communism would mean for Russia. "It would mean throwing everything back," he said, citing statistics from 1991 which showed that the average queueing time for meat and sausages in the former Soviet Union was four hours.

"Does our economy need that, do our people need that?" he asked. "The price of these slogans and promises is very, very dear."

Mr Chernomyrdin, 56, gave a solid performance, but many in Russia still wonder if he has the right character to lead the country into the post-Yeltsin era. It was clear throughout the election campaign that he disliked public exposure and lacked telegenic qualities.

To offset his staid appearance, his party has run an expensive publicity campaign with slick television advertisements and "cultural events", and a fashion show with Claudia Schiffer, the German supermodel.

In a more traditional form of campaigning, Mr Chernomyrdin repeated yesterday his more direct appeal to the electorate. He promised to reimburse millions of investors who lost their shares in pyramid schemes, pledged to pay up delayed salaries in the public sector and promised to help pensioners, war veterans and invalids.

Although Our Home is Russia is still struggling in the polls behind the communists, Mr Chernomyrdin has calculated that many undecided voters will back his centrist party. Although he may project an uninspiring image, he is seen as a guarantor of stability, security and maybe even a brighter future.



Chernomyrdin, making his final appeal to Russian voters yesterday, before Sunday's election, promised that there would be "no U-turn" to socialism

## Austrian election puts Good Life at centre stage

FROM ROGER BOYES IN VIENNA

THE Vienna waltz is moving to a new political rhythm. Franz Vranitzky, Austria's Socialist Chancellor, has danced through election rallies and press conferences with Tony Blair and Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister. Wolfgang Schüssel, the conservative rival, has asked Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and Theo Waigel, Bonn's Finance Minister, on to the floor.

The music plays on until election day on Sunday with more and more European politicians gliding in and out of Vienna to underline the importance of the ballot. This is a small country, with barely eight million people, but there is a great deal at stake. Commentators talk of Austria being on the brink of a revolution akin to the upheavals in Italy or the post-communist states.

The elections, like the riots in France, are about the Good Life. How far must the welfare state be rolled back? What is the responsibility of the state to its citizens? What further sacrifices are demanded by membership of the European Union, or future accession to the common currency?

Herr Schüssel prefers boogie-woogie to the waltz and hammers hard on a piano to show sceptical students, who know he plans to raise tuition fees, that he is in tune with them and is Austria's moderniser. It is all in the body language: the urbane Herr Vranitzky moves as if he has grown tired in power; Herr Schüssel as if he has been injected with vitamins. Jörg Haider, the right-wing leader, as if he were pursued by hungry wolves.

The social democrat Herr Vranitzky wants to preserve as much as he can of the welfare state while Herr Schüssel, Foreign Minister in the coalition, wants to bring down the budget deficit more convincingly to meet the Maastricht criteria for entry to European monetary union. The two men clashed in the drafting of the budget, forcing a dissolution of parliament.

There is little doubt that Austrians are feather-bedded. Quality newspapers and most cultural institutions receive generous subsidies. Civil ser-

vants are often encouraged to retire in their mid-fifties and receive about 80 per cent of their salary until they get their official pension. Paid maternity leave can last for two years. Health care is almost free.

So far the Austrian economy has done surprisingly well despite this costly welfare network. Inflation has fallen to 2 per cent recently, unemployment is well below the European average, at 6.5 per cent, and politicians say that there is almost full employment among young people. Export performance is strong and productivity high.

Why, then, should Austria subject itself to the kind of pain being experienced in France? The reason, Herr Schüssel says, is that the system is close to breaking point. Students stay at least seven years at university and retire less than 30 years later: too little to fund a strained welfare system. Good house-keeping dictates reform.

Austrians are disillusioned about EU membership. In last year's referendum, 66 per cent voted for entry to the Union. If the vote were to be repeated tomorrow, only 40 per cent would support entry.

There is no question of Austrians taking to the streets like the French, but the betting is that Austrians will either vote cautiously for Herr Vranitzky or for Herr Haider.

If the Socialist-conservative coalition is returned to power with a weakened conservative component and a stronger far-right opposition, Austria will begin to look very wobbly and another election may follow shortly after Sunday.



Vranitzky: seems to have grown tired in power

## WI party preaches gospel of gentle politics

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW



Lakhova: lists baking cakes as her hobby

THE Women of Russia, an all-female party that is committed to changing the ground rules of male-dominated Russian politics, could turn out to be the surprise success in Sunday's parliamentary elections.

The group, an offshoot of the Communist-era women's committees that existed in every town and city, is making a late surge in the opinion polls. A higher than expected turnout is bound to boost its prospects, pollsters say. The party hopes to pick up the votes of women who are fed up

with aggressively male politics and want to cast a safe, non-partisan vote. Leonid Sedov, a pollster, said that, with a turnout of 70 per cent, the party could come in second after the frontrunners, the Communist Party.

The party has also had a stroke of luck: it won the draw to be the first party on the ballot paper's list of the 43 electoral blocs, which potentially could attract undecided voters.

The Women of Russia flinch at the word "feminism". Mostly fifty-something wives and mothers, they have more of a no-nonsense wartime attitude. The movement evolved from the Soviet Union for Women group, the

Communist version of the Women's Institute. Yekaterina Lakhova, its leader, who lists her hobbies in her Who's Who as "baking cakes for her family", published a book last week entitled *My Path to Politics*.

The party is appealing to voters by highlighting the brawls, boorish behaviour and verbal abuse in the male-dominated Duma. "We would like to change the rules of the game in politics, to be gentle and accessible to ordinary people," she told a press conference last week.

The party's advertisement on television is filled with images of women harvesting wheat, dancing and sing-

ing, and its party leaders talking to mostly male politicians. A clip shows Mrs Lakhova physically separating two deputies brawling in the Duma. In the background, Aleksandr Morozov, a pop singer, croons the party's theme, *Women of Russia... you are the most beautiful on earth*.

Mrs Lakhova has denied charges that they do not have any clear policies. She said her priorities were to defend women's jobs in the market economy and to increase their representation in Russian institutions. "Russia will be reborn only when women take their deserved place in society," she said.

**Dixons**

**INNOVATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFTS**

**LAZERLYTE**

LL200 LASER POINTER

- Laser visible up to 200 yards
- With pocket clip to conveniently slip into your pocket

**£49.99**

LAZERLYTE

LL100 LASER POINTER

- Laser visible up to 100 yards
- With pocket clip to conveniently slip into your pocket

**£29.99**

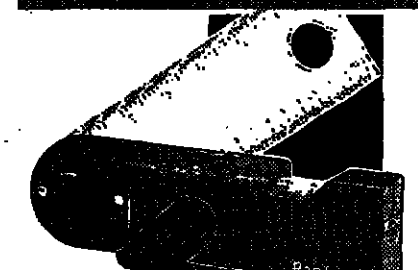
LAZERLYTE

LL100 LASER POINTER

- Laser visible up to 100 yards
- With pocket clip to conveniently slip into your pocket

**£59.99**

**ELECTRONIC MEASURING IDEAL FOR DIY**



**SEIKO HC200**

ELECTRONIC LEVEL

- Perfect for levelling pictures
- Rotating ruler measures and shows angles in degrees

**£27.99**

**SEIKO HC200**

ELECTRONIC TAPE MEASURE

- Automatically adds multiple distances, fractions and case length

**£32.99**

**SEIKO HC200**

PIRO MEASURE

- Measures length and height of room, then calculates area
- Ideal for painting or decorating

**£32.99**

**WORLD'S SMALLEST FM RADIO**

**ZEONTECH**

CR0670 IN-EAR

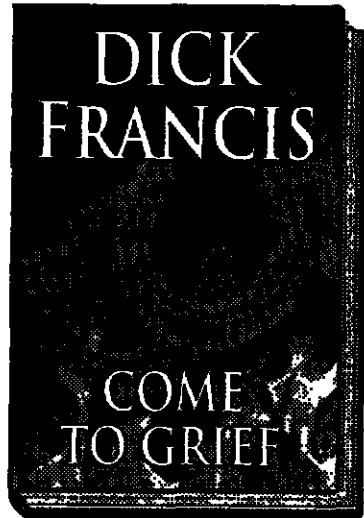
- Tuning scans the full FM band
- Scan and reset buttons with 2 level volume switch
- 1 1/2 inches high

**£19.99**

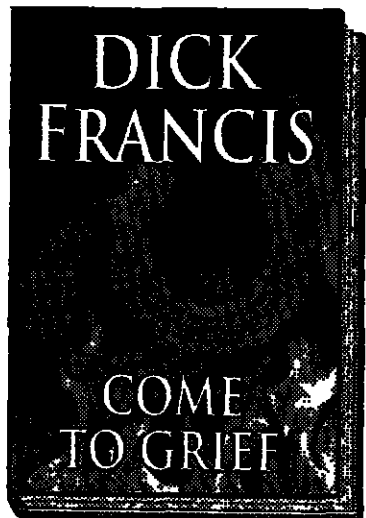
**Dixons**  
THE BEST DEALS FOR CHRISTMAS

OVER 350 HIGH STREET BRANCHES NATIONWIDE  
TEL 0181-200 0200 FOR YOUR NEAREST BRANCH  
MOST STORES OPEN SUNDAYS

**Dillons have the best starting prices.**



WH SMITH'S PRICE **£12.99**



DILLONS' PRICE **£10.99**

One title from our range of over 200 bestsellers and new books at greatly reduced prices.

**DILLONS**  
THE BOOKSTORE

It all adds up to a better deal.

**A FURTHER £5 OFF**  
any book with the Dillons Privilege Card

\* For your additional £5 discount pick up your Privilege Card at any Dillons Bookstore. Everytime you spend £10 you will receive a stamp. When your card is complete with six stamps, you are entitled to £5 off your next purchase





## Pilots turn tables on Vegas casino laser beam shows

FROM GILES WHITTALL IN LOS ANGELES

THE dazzling laser beam displays of Las Vegas casinos, the latest weapon in the endless battle for customers, have been switched off — because of reports that they can temporarily blind the pilots of low-flying airliners.

McCarran International Airport, which is barely a mile from the Strip, has received 51 reports of pilots being unable to see at crucial moments before landing and after take-off, in all cases the pilots blamed laser displays.

Shelby LaCroix, a pilot whose airline flies thousands of gamblers into Las Vegas every day from Los Angeles, was steering his Boeing 737 through a banking turn three miles from the airport on the evening of October 30 when a brilliant flash of light momentarily blinded him and forced him to hand over the controls to his co-pilot.

"When the laser hit my eye,

time stopped for me," he told *The Wall Street Journal*. "Had it hit me and the other pilot simultaneously, I shudder to think what would have happened. Of course, the airplane was still flying at 250 mph."

His report to the Food and Drug Administration, which monitors the medical use of lasers, was among those that prompted Monday's letter to casinos from the FDA banning rooftop laser shows. The Las Vegas Hilton and the Rio

### Storm kills five

Los Angeles: Five people died, thousands of homes were flooded and large areas left without electricity as heavy rain and hurricane-force winds hit America's Pacific coast from San Francisco to Seattle. Yesterday a state of emergency was declared in western Oregon.

Suite Hotel, which boasted the city's most spectacular lasers, have since shut them down, relying on their more traditional onslaughts of neon light to attract attention.

The Luxor, a pyramid of steel and smoked glass, yards from the airport perimeter, had already installed a fail-safe mechanism to turn off a pair of smaller lasers that emerge from the eyes of a sphinx and are supposed to strike a nearby fountain. If a drop in water pressure causes the fountain to shrink, the lasers now switch off automatically instead of playing over the airport's taxi-ways.

Less than a day later, the FAA issued a kill-order. It has released results of tests on "flash blindness" carried out in simulators by McDonnell Douglas, the aircraft manufacturer. Dozens of pilots were exposed to lasers while making a turn — almost half of them crashed.



Lindy Chamberlain-Creighton with her new husband, Rick Creighton, before their arrival at the coroner's court in Darwin. She has not ruled out further legal action

## Open verdict in dingo baby case

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

ONE of Australia's most divisive cases, the disappearance of nine-week-old Azaria Chamberlain 15 years ago, remained unsolved yesterday after a Northern Territory coroner recorded an open verdict in Darwin.

Lindy and Michael Chamberlain had asked for a formal finding on the cause of their baby's death, after she disappeared from a campsite near Ayers Rock in August 1980. They claimed that Azaria, whose body was never found, was taken from their tent by a dingo.

But a court subsequently found Mrs Chamberlain guilty of murder and her husband of being an accessory after the fact. Three years into a life sentence she was released after the child's bloodstained nappie jacket was found at the base of the rock, discrediting earlier forensic science evidence.

The convictions were quashed and nearly half a million pounds in compensation was paid. But the coroner's file on her death has remained open. Yesterday, after three inquests, a murder trial, two appeals and a royal

commission, the Chamberlains, now divorced, went back to Darwin to clear their names.

John Lowndes, the coroner, ruled in a 105-page report that there was not enough evidence to say either a dingo took the child, or that her mother was involved. "The only finding I can record is an open one," he said.

Mrs Chamberlain-Creighton, who has remarried, said: "I guess this may not be the end of the case after all. You may hear from us again."



Michael Chamberlain leaving court yesterday

## Californians back 'Gingrich clone'

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

NEWT GINGRICH enjoyed a brief respite from his increasing political troubles yesterday with a resounding Republican victory in a congressional by-election. The Democrats had tried to make a referendum on the unpopular House Speaker.

Tom Campbell romped home with nearly 60 per cent of the vote against Jerry Estruth, his Democratic opponent, in the Californian district of San Jose. Testing the strategy with which the Democrats hope to recapture the House next year, Mr Estruth had labelled Mr Campbell a "Gingrich clone" and suggested a vote for him was a vote for the Speaker's extremist agenda. Mr Campbell convinced

the voters that while he was a fiscal conservative, he was a social moderate.

Willie Brown, the former Speaker of the California Assembly, was elected the first black Mayor of neighbouring San Francisco, defeating the incumbent Frank Jordan, a fellow Democrat, with 57 per cent of the vote. Mr Brown, 60, rose from the humblest of backgrounds to become one of the most powerful and flamboyant Speakers in California's history, but recently lost that post after 14 years.

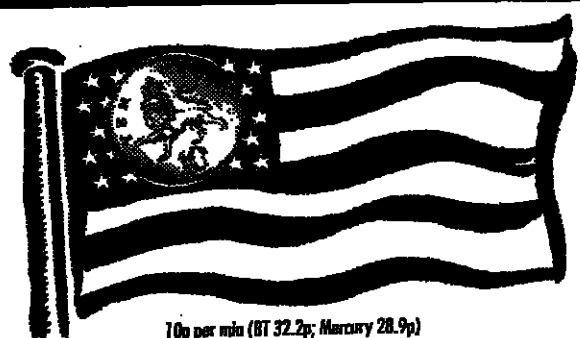
"The night is over and I done won," the exuberant Mr Brown told cheering supporters early yesterday. In Chicago's impoverished South Side, Jesse Jackson's son won a crushing victory in another congressional by-election, beating his Republican opponent with 76 per cent of the vote. Jesse Jackson Jr, 30, whose only job experience has been as field director for his father's National Rainbow Coalition, delivered a victory speech filled with echoes of Martin Luther King. "I have a dream that one day the South Side of Chicago will look like the North Side," he said.

Mr Jackson will be sworn in today by Mr Gingrich, whose removal is his top priority.



Jackson Jr: echoes of Martin Luther King

## CALL THE LAND OF THE FREE FOR NEXT TO NOTHING.



10p per min (BT 32.2p; Mercury 28.9p)

	10p	20p	66%
USA	10p	20p	66%
India	62p	97p	36%
South Africa	40p	60p	33%
Hong Kong	35p	55p	37%
Japan	35p	75p	52%
Australia	19p	45p	57%
Brazil	60p	85p	29%
Canada	14p	20p	52%
Germany/France	18p	22p	10%
Israel	56p	70p	20%

\* Savings to 100's of countries

\* Business and residential customers welcome

\* For full details phone the number below

\* Operators available 24hrs a day, 7 days a week.

**FREEPHONE**  
0800 376 66 66



Globally Speaking - a service provided by First Telecom plc

**BEFORE YOU PHONE THE WORLD, PHONE US.**

Price comparison is based on per minute. Mercury price shown in brackets. Globally Speaking and First Telecom both charge a 10p connection charge for international calls. All charges subject to change without notice. All charges subject to change without notice.

### THE FAST, EASY AND SAFE PERSONAL LOAN SERVICE

Why wait for the cash you need when all it takes is one quick phone call and we'll give you an instant decision. Phone us today!

At Lombard Bank, loans are our business. We are part of the Lombard group of companies with over 5 million customers in the UK and are one of the most respected financial organisations. So you can trust us to give you an excellent standard of service, now and in the future.

### APPLY FOR UP TO £10,000

We specialise in offering unsecured loans at competitive rates of interest. And at Lombard Bank we realise how important it is that you know you can borrow enough for your needs. That's why with a Lombard Personal Loan you can apply for any amount from £1,000 to £10,000. What's more, you can use the money for practically any purpose whatsoever - even to pay off any existing up to date loans and credit cards.

### COMPLETE PEACE OF MIND

Take out a Lombard Bank Personal Loan and you won't have to pay a deposit or offer your home as security. You can be assured the rate of interest you pay will never go up and if you choose to borrow £3,000 or more you'll even enjoy a money-saving 2% APR discount. You also have the option for us to arrange Repayment Protection Plan for you. Your repayments could be made on your behalf should you fall ill, suffer an accident or lose your job through redundancy by taking out our Repayment Protection Plan (subject to a few simple conditions). So you can enjoy your loan with complete peace of mind.

### PHONE-YOUR-LOAN ... NOW

Simply complete and sign the application form below and either return it to us or call us direct on 0800 88 88 82. Your call is free and our courteous and highly trained staff will give you a decision as quickly as possible.

0800 88 88 82

Please complete all relevant sections, ensuring you print all your details clearly in BLOCK CAPITALS. If a section is not applicable please put a cross through it. \*Delete as appropriate

**YOUR DETAILS**

Surname  Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms

First names

Address

Postcode

Tel. No. (incl. code)

How long have you lived at this address?  years  months

If less than 5 yrs, please give previous address

Postcode

Is your current home: Owned ☐ Rented ☐

With Parents ☐ Forcible ☐

Your Date of Birth

Married ☐ Single ☐

Widowed ☐ Divorced ☐

Spouse/Partner: Initials  Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms

Surname

Date of Birth  No. of Dependents

**YOUR EMPLOYMENT**

Your occupation

Employer's/Business Name

Type of Business

# PHONE-A-LOAN

## £1,000 - £10,000

Call today for the cheque you want - fast!

AMOUNT OF LOAN	£1,000	£1,500	£2,000	£3,000	£4,000	£5,000	£6,000	£7,000	£8,000	£9,000	£10,000
12 MONTHS											
With Repayment Protection	£56.49	£94.74	£112.99	£168.25	£221.67	£277.08	£332.50	£387.92	£443.34	£498.76	£554.17
Without Repayment Protection	£49.32	£73.98	£98.64	£145.48	£193.96	£242.44	£290.92	£339.40	£387.87	£436.35	£484.83
24 MONTHS											
With Repayment Protection	£42.55	£63.83	£85.11	£124.01	£165.35	£206.69	£248.03	£289.37	£330.71	£372.04	£413.37
Without Repayment Protection	£35.52	£53.29	£71.05	£104.02	£138.70	£173.37	£208.05	£242.73	£277.40	£312.08	£346.75
36 MONTHS											
With Repayment Protection	N/A	N/A	£71.40	£103.03	£137.38	£171.72	£206.07	£240.41	£274.75	£309.10	£343.45
Without Repayment Protection	N/A	N/A	£57.45	£83.52	£111.36	£139.20	£167.04	£194.88	£222.73	£250.57	£278.41
48 MONTHS											
With Repayment Protection	N/A	N/A	£64.55	£92.19	£122.92	£153.65	£184.38	£215.11	£245.84	£276.57	£307.30
Without Repayment Protection	N/A	N/A	£49.43	£71.40	£95.20	£118.00	£142.80	£166.60	£190.40	£214.21	£238.01

The APR will depend on the amount you borrow and the term of your loan. The example given in the column opposite reflects the APR discount on loans of £3,000 and over. An administration fee of 1.5% (minimum £30) of your loan is payable with your first monthly repayment. A written quotation is available on request. Credit is available to persons aged 24 or over subject to status and conditions. Repayment Protection Plan is subject to certain restrictions and exclusions; full details will be sent to you with your Agreement Form.

PHONE TODAY FOR AN INSTANT DECISION

## 0800 88 88 82\*

8am - 8pm Mon - Fri 9am - 12 noon Sat

\*Calls may be recorded/monitored for staff training purposes. Please ensure your application form is fully completed and signed before you telephone.

Address

Postcode

Tel. No.

Are you: Employed ☐ Self-employed ☐ Armed Forces ☐

If self-employed, are you a: Sole Trader ☐ Partner ☐ Director ☐

Time employed/self-employed yrs  mths

Please give previous employer's name:

Occupation:

Spouse's occupation:

Employer's/Business Name

Tel No.

Time employed/self-employed yrs  mths

Your Bank Details

Bank/Building Soc. Name

Branch

Bank Sort Code

Account Number

Credit Cards: Access/Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Amex ☐

Diners Club ☐ Others (please state)

**YOUR INCOME & OUTGOINGS**

INCOME: Your basic monthly income after tax £

Spouse/Partner's monthly income after tax £

Other income £

Total monthly income £

OUTGOINGS: Mortgage/Rent £

Total monthly HP/credit commitments £

Other monthly outgoings £

Total monthly outgoings £

It may be required that we ask for additional information.

**EXISTING LOANSHP**

(Please give details of any outstanding loans that you would like to settle)

Name of Company

Approx. balance £

£

£

**REPAYMENT PROTECTION PLAN** (Tick one box only)

☐ YES I would like to take advantage of the Repayment Protection Plan which could cover my loan repayments and protect my good credit record should I be unable to work through sickness, accident or redundancy.

☐ NO I do not require the Repayment Protection Plan.

**YOUR LOAN DETAILS**

Amount of Loan required £

Length of Repayment required  months

Main purpose of loan:

Holiday ☐ Home improvements ☐

Caravan/Boat ☐ Home furnishings ☐

Credit repayment ☐ Other (please specify)

The above information is true and complete. If you are unable to assist me you may (unless I request you otherwise) refer my application to another lender who may be prepared to grant the loan. The paragraph below concerning the Data Protection Act will also apply in relation to that lender.

**YOUR SIGNATURE**

Date

The Data Protection Act 1984 Lombard Bank uses credit scoring, a computerised method of analysing which includes a credit reference agency who will rate an enquiry has been made about you. We may disclose information supplied by you to any lender or to any person acting on your behalf for any purpose connected with the credit business. We may also use your name and address to send you about services which may be of interest to you. You may choose not to be included in these mailings.

**PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO THE ADDRESS BELOW NOW**

**PLEASE ENSURE YOUR APPLICATION FORM IS FULLY COMPLETED BEFORE YOU PHONE.**

**Lombard Bank Limited**

Lombard House, FREEPOST  
330 Southbury Road, Enfield,  
Middlesex, EN1 1BR.

For your convenience, you do not need a stamp.

Registered in England No. 054572 Registered office: Lombard House, 3 Pinewood Way, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1NP

# Is he Just William - or Dennis the Menace?

Family life can be made a misery by a hyperactive child — but should parents agree to a controversial drug treatment? Ian Robertson talks to one mother facing the dilemma

LOUIS is only ten years old but already he is notorious in his village near Southend. He has thrown a large, living crab through the open window of a passing motorist, cut down a neighbour's flowers and tried to sell them from his own driveway, and stuffed itching powder down schoolmates' shirts.

To any *Just William* fan, these sound like the endearing exploits of Richmal Crompton's much-loved hero. But when you hear how Louis eluded his mother in the local supermarket, and was found with an unmasked razor "shaving" the arm of a passing toddler, the indulgent smiles start to slip.

"Why can't she control her child? That question has often rung in the ears of Jacky Coole, a teacher and mother of three. Sandwiched between her two girls, aged seven and 12, is the restless, impulsive and unpredictable Louis. "I had dealt with difficult children, learning disabilities and behaviour problems," she says, "but even that didn't prepare me for Louis."

"From the time he was a baby he didn't sleep much, and by three his behaviour was very anti-social — throwing food, kicking people, rushing around like an animal."

At seven, Louis was diagnosed as hyperactive (what American experts call attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, or ADHD) at Great Ormond Street Hospital. His mother reluctantly agreed that he should be given Ritalin (methylphenidate), an amphetamine-type drug which improves mental functioning. "As soon as he started on it, he sat down and made some beautiful flower arrangements, something he had never done before," she says.

Mrs Coole believes that without Ritalin, it would be difficult to keep Louis in his ordinary school, even as a "special needs" pupil.

Both the diagnosis of ADHD and the use of Ritalin have been

heavily criticised in Britain by doctors and the media. Opponents argue that the condition does not exist and that children should not be fed a powerful drug just to keep them quiet. This is an understandable reaction to the practice in America, where on average one child in every school class is prescribed a drug to improve mental functioning, and prescriptions for Ritalin have increased by 600 per cent in the past five years. In Australia, too, believers in ADHD claim that 15 per cent of children suffer from the disorder.

British experts treat such claims with well-justified scepticism. But they do believe that a hyperactive condition exists as an imprecise description of a pattern of behaviour which can have many different causes. Professor Eric Taylor, of the Institute of Psychiatry in London, is an expert on the subject and author of *The Hyperactive Child: a Parent's Guide* (Oprima, £7.99). He is adamant that ADHD is a description and not an explanation of behaviour.

"The truly hyperactive child shows the problems long before going to school, finds great difficulty in concentrating and shows difficult behaviour which has poisoned relationships with other people," he says.

So how can parents know if their child is a mischievous but normal William Brown (sufferers are usually boys), or suffering from hyperactivity? The American Psychiatric Association has compiled a list of telltale signs (see box). All children will sometimes act in these ways and to be classified as hyperactive at least six symptoms must appear before the age of seven, be seriously affecting school or social activities and not be confined to just one setting. Professor Taylor believes ADHD is increasingly being recognised in Britain.

Problems with concentration and attention almost always go together with hyperactivity, though most affected children are much better in fast-moving circumstances such as playing video games, according to Professor David Skuse, of the Institute of Child Health in London. "They also tend to be much better off in one-to-one encounters," he says. "It is the slow-moving situation that they find most difficult."

Hyperactive disorders affect about one in 200 children in



Tiny terror from Hollywood — Michael Oliver starring as Junior in the film *Problem Child*

Britain, and can have many causes, including brain damage, congenital malformation of the brain, or a failure of attachment between parents and child. There is probably a hereditary component — Mrs Coole thinks that her husband is also affected.

Some sufferers may have subtle differences in the way their brains work. The right frontal area of the brain acts as a sort of "boredom override" centre, allowing us to concentrate in situations where nothing much exciting is happening. The few studies that have been done suggest that some ADHD sufferers may show abnormalities in this region. Chemical messen-

gers in the brain known as the catecholamines are also important in maintaining concentration, and Ritalin may boost catecholamine activity.

"Ritalin tones down Louis's hyperactivity, but he can still be unpredictable and antisocial," says Mrs Coole. "And it can keep him awake until midnight." Amphetamine-type drugs can also cause loss of appetite and, rarely, depression.

Professor Taylor believes that drugs like Ritalin should be given only to children who are truly hyperactive, for whom concentration and attention is a

disabling problem, and where psychological treatments have been tried first. This cautious approach is wise, given our scant knowledge of the long-term effects of the drug.

Hyperactivity disrupts the lives of the children and their families. Toddlers can show psychological problems later in childhood, and children who have poor concentration at age five tend to be poor readers two years later. Fifty per cent of children who are truly hyperactive at seven end up with a psychiatric disorder as adults.

"When the specialist told us about the poor prognosis, it almost destroyed us," says Mrs Coole. She and her family joined a support group for ADHD sufferers, called Ladder, and she offers advice to other affected families.

What would her advice be to parents of children like Louis? "Genuine sufferers need to have the disorder recognised, just as dyslexia has become recognised. Parents need support, not blame, and GPs need to accept that there is a big problem."

● Ladder, PO Box 700, Wolverhampton WV3 7TY (enclose SAE).

## THE DANGER SIGNS

Hyperactive children will show at least six of the following symptoms before the age of seven in school and home:

- Fidget and squirm.
- Leave their seat in school at the wrong time.
- Run about or climb at the wrong time.

- Have difficulty in playing or working quietly.
- Talk excessively and blurt out answers to questions.
- Have difficulty awaiting turn and interrupt conversations or games.
- Make careless mistakes through inattention to detail.

Husky throat? It may not be the booze

## Drink and dry

THE response to the Health Secretary Stephen Dorrell's call for men to restrict their alcohol intake to 28 small glasses of wine or its equivalent, and for women to have no more than 21 in a week, may be realistic but is likely to fall on deaf ears until after the Christmas party season. This is the time of year when a heavy night is often followed by a morning coping with a husky voice and a dry mouth and throat.

The reveller usually corrects the dehydration caused by the alcohol, and the mouth dried by a night of mouth breathing, possibly even snoring, by glasses of fresh orange juice or draughts of water. By lunchtime all is well.

Lucky reveller — his or her discomfort lasts only a few hours. But for many people the problem of a dry mouth, xerostomia, is always present and stems from failure of the salivary glands. Xerostomia is not a trivial disability. Speech is difficult, every meal becomes a battle to swallow dry or lumpy food, and each morning the sufferer wakes with a mouth which is dry, red, shiny and often secondarily infected with thrush. The gums and teeth are usually inflamed and sore.

Meals are not only spoilt by the battle to swallow food, but the lack of saliva plus any thrush infection takes away its taste, patients often saying that all food tastes like sawdust.

Xerostomia is a symptom of many diseases but it can also be induced by treatment. One in 40 people suffer from a connective tissue disorder and these diseases, found more frequently in women and including such common conditions as rheumatoid arthritis,

Raynaud's disease, scleroderma and systemic lupus erythematosus, are often associated with an unpleasantly dry mouth. One in three patients with rheumatoid arthritis, for instance, have this problem.

In Sjögren's syndrome, dry eyes, a dry mouth and an associated connective tissue disorder are combined, and the loss of saliva is particularly distressing. Ninety per cent of those who suffer with it are women.

Diabetes is another condition which frequently causes a dry mouth, and xerostomia often follows surgery or radiotherapy for cancer of the mouth, head or neck. Physicians as well as surgeons and radiotherapists can give their patients an excessively dry mouth, as it can be a side effect of a wide variety of drugs prescribed for such diverse conditions as depression, heart failure, schizophrenia and allergies.

The symptoms of a dry mouth can be helped by constantly sipping sugar-free fluids, sucking sugar-free sweets or chewing gum designed to stimulate the flow of saliva, and by coating the mouth with edible oil at night.

Above all, relief is obtained by the use of saliva substitutes which can be applied by a spray, or sucked in lozenge or pastille form.

● A Norwegian firm, Nycomed, which manufactures a salivary substitute, has issued a first-class booklet written by specialist doctors, nurses and speech therapists, which can be obtained from Nycomed House, 2111 Coventry Road, Sheldon, Birmingham B26 3EA (0121-742 2444).

## Sound advance in diagnosis



ULTRASOUND scanning has become an essential diagnostic tool. Although it is a simple, painless procedure, however, interpreting the results of tests requires considerable skill. An ultrasound is only as good as the radiologist, or other specialist, who is operating it: the pictures it produces can be as indecipherable as some weather maps.

Men are becoming accustomed to the idea that if their PSA (prostatic specific antigen) — the blood test which is helpful in differentiating between benign and malignant disease of the prostate — is raised they will need further investigations, including an ultrasound. The assessment of the size of the prostate is determined by a trans-rectal examination.

Women, too, are benefiting from greater use of the ultrasound. *General Practitioner* magazine reports that ultrasound examination in gynaecological clinics can revolutionise diagnosis.

In a recent survey at the May Day Hospital in Thornton Heath, Surrey, a vaginal examination coupled with a trans-vaginal ultrasound enabled gynaecologists to make the correct diagnosis in 98 per cent of cases on patients' first visit to the clinic.

## Dummies out, eardrums in

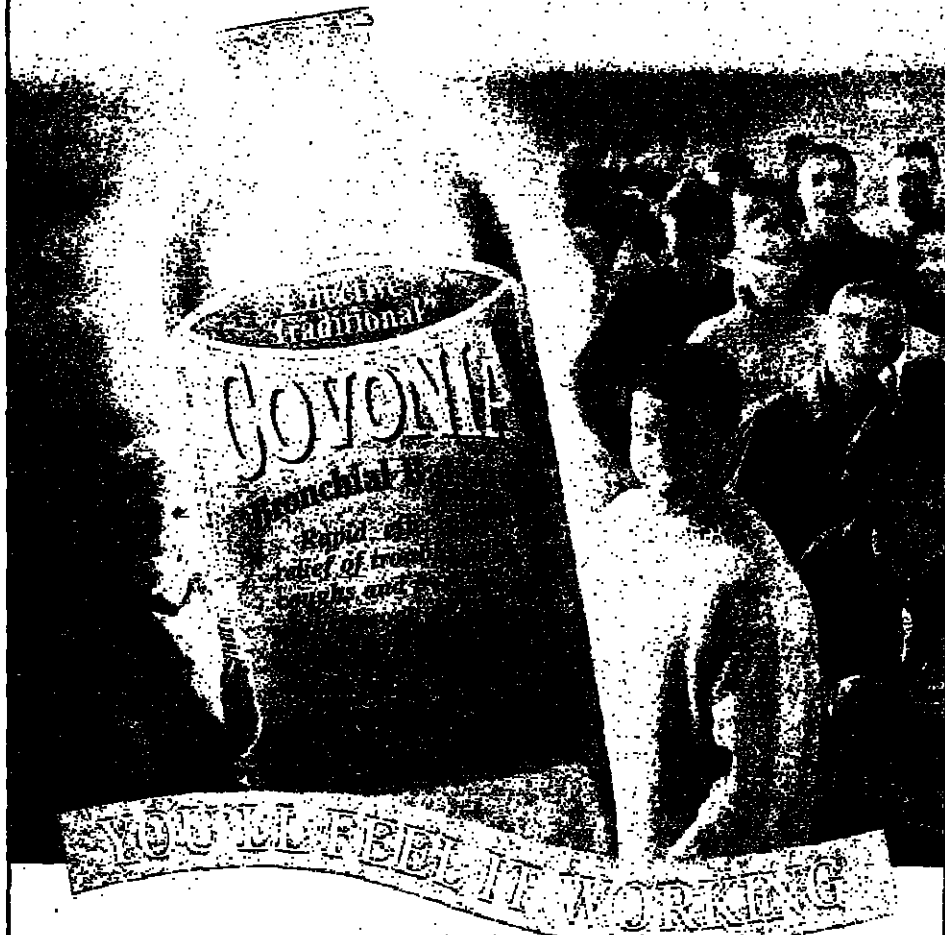


A DUMMY stuck into the mouth of a baby is aesthetically unattractive, but whether it is bad for the baby's health has been a matter of controversy for nearly a century.

Dummies have been condemned as possible sources of infection and distorters of the shape of the child's mouth, and have been accused of creating a high gothic arched palate, possibly leading later to crowding of the teeth.

The journal *Paediatrics* has recently published research from Finland which has given more evidence in support of those who are opposed to the dummy. Attacks of otitis media (acute inflammation of the eardrum) are more than twice as common in children who still use a dummy between the ages of two and three, and a third more common in the under-twos. In otitis media an infection often spreads up the Eustachian tube from the mouth and throat to the middle ear. Inflammation of the eardrum causes earache, fever, deafness and, rather confusingly, vomiting and abdominal pain. If parents want to reduce the risk of these acute symptoms they should heed the advice of the paediatricians that no child over ten months should use a dummy.

## The effects of COVONIA are spreading fast!



Covonia has become one of the nation's most popular cough medicines because as people say, "you really can feel it working fast".

The proven pharmacy only formula and good traditional ingredients start to ease, calm and soothe your cough within just seconds.

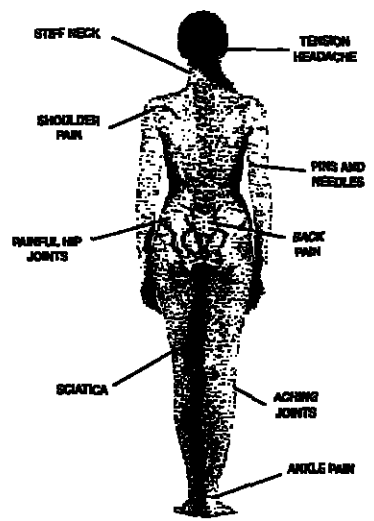
So next time you need fast-acting relief for a troublesome cough, why not try Covonia and feel the effects for yourself.

Only from Pharmacies

Always read the label

## Back Pain? Painful Sleep?

Your sleeping posture is more important than you think.



Tension free sleep is vital to your health.



The Tempur Mattress and Pillow mould to the body, resulting in optimum distribution of pressure.

SLEEP ON IT FOR 30 NIGHTS WITH COMPLETE MONEY BACK GUARANTEE... you can only win...

The Tempur Mattress and Pillow are recommended by more than 15,000 medical professionals.

Ask your Physiotherapist, Chiropractor or Osteopath.

Please send me details on the Tempur Mattress & Pillow

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

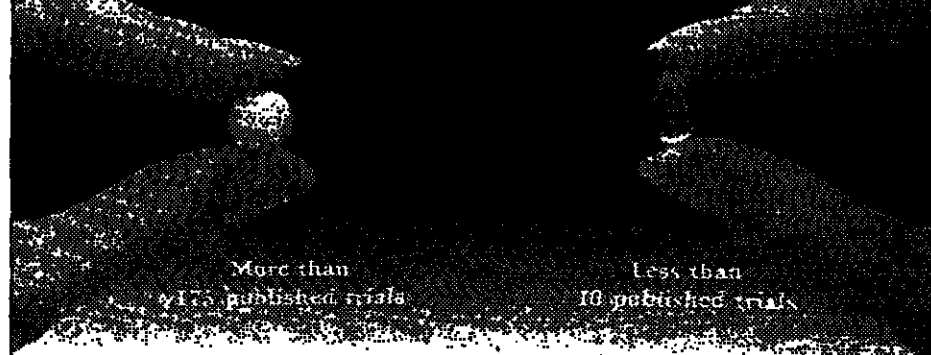
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Send coupon to: Tempur - Podic (UK) Ltd FREEPOST (HA 4653) Greatford, Middlesbrough TS6 8BR or call 0800 616 135

TT20

## HOW RESEARCH HELPS YOU CHOOSE THE RIGHT GARLIC SUPPLEMENT FOR YOUR HEART.



### Why Kwai is the right choice of garlic supplement

In the bewildering choice of garlic supplements available today, only Kwai can offer you the reassurance of millions of pounds of healthcare research conducted in several countries with results widely published in respected scientific journals. This research also shows that a single Kwai Once-A-Day tablet gives you an allicin yield equivalent to that of 900 milligrams of raw garlic, daily.

### Kwai and a healthy heart

This is vital because allicin has now been identified as an agent which, when released deep into the digestive system, could maintain circulation, normal blood pressure and a healthy heart if it's taken as part of a fitness programme.

Kwai Once-A-Day tablets are odourless and are coated 60 times to leave no trace of garlic on the breath.

So if you want to pick a garlic supplement that acts like raw, fresh garlic, make sure you pick Kwai.

If you want more information about Kwai and your health please call the Kwai Information Line on 01628 60 22 99.

**Kwai GARLIC-THE EASY WAY**

Kwai is available from Boots, Superdrug, chemists, supermarkets and health food stores.



## Where would you have looked if you'd been Kissinger?

When even Henry Kissinger stalls, you know it is a dilemma. The former United States Secretary of State, scholar, statesman and policy supremo was acting as chief greeter on Monday night at a New York black-tie charity dinner. Enter the Princess of Wales, clad in a black dress that showed off to good effect her gymnasium-honed bosom.

What should a Nobel Prize winner do? How should any man, particularly one the height of Henry Kissinger, respond? When introduced to a woman who is demonstrating a terrific cleavage, should we compliment her on her figure? Or should we fix a fishy eye on, say, her left nostril and seek her considered verdict on the Bosnian peace accord?

Henry, as I say, stalled. His reaction was that of the pointer on a December shoot indicating the location of a fallen game-bird. It called to mind the look of a Scott or an Amundsen, pausing mid-trek on the edge of an Antarctic

crevasse to wipe his brow and stare in wonderment at the deep, icy cavern below. It was Kissinger's bad luck, but our good fortune, that a photographer caught the moment as the learned doctor peered, astonished, at the Princess's embonpoint.

In these cold, pioneering days of post-feminism, men have yet to work out a protocol. We have yet to come to terms with the new deal: that it is all right for the two sexes to rejoice in their differences. The Kissinger poser is being repeated at countless dinner parties and gala dinners as men realise that they have no clue how to react, in late 1995, to the sight of an advancing bust.

American women, like their British sisters, have embraced "glam" as the mid-Nineties look and are flashing off everything at their disposal: jewels, teeth, torpedoes. The new fashion word in New York this autumn is "swank". Indoor fountains, wall-length mirrors, the

In the post-feminist era, even a statesman cannot cope with the protocol for a princess in her prime, Quentin Letts says

Monogamous Royal Family and blonde second wives, after years of ribaldry, are deemed acceptable. Fur sales are up by 20 per cent and you are once more permitted to expect small children and Italian waiters to be seen and not heard.

Into this same bracket falls what an American president might term "the bosom thing". The late Eighties were a time of mental conformity and social comment. Slim-hipped androgyny was seized on as the least culpable state of existence and women strapped down their fronts



The Princess of Wales dines as Henry Kissinger looks on

of its young men to the Great War.

A few doughy creatures resisted. Madonna's conical bra by Jean-Paul Gaultier wriggled against received wisdom. Eva Herzigova buoyed our spirits, and this autumn's fashion shows confirmed the return of that indispensable item, the petticoat. At last — hooray! — the drabness has passed. A woman, if she engages the assistance of the Gossard corporation, is now no longer letting down the side for women. She is using her God-given components and only gravi-

ty is defied. The majority of men secretly think this is great, but in New York they remain uncertain if it is all right to say so.

In Mid-Western states such as Kentucky and Tennessee there is less angst. If a girl looks good, the good ol' boy will say so, probably with a complimentary emission of chewing tobacco towards the spittoon. In Latin America, post-feminism has not been a problem as they never had feminism in the first place, and have yet to encounter the horror that is Andrea Dworkin.

But along the east and west coasts of the US, and particularly in Manhattan, with the remnants of its Upper West Side liberalism and hideous guilt complexes, post-feminist man remains unsteady on his pins.

He is racked with anguish about body politics — so out of step now with the body politic — and sees before him the spectre of sexual harassment. It is not that he fears an old-fashioned slap in the face. The late Eighties sanction was far

more terrifying: peer disapproval and accusations of being a moral dinosaur.

All this flashes in an instant through the mind of the modern man placed in the situation which confronted Henry Kissinger on Monday night. What should he have done? Poor Henry. The fact that he had to incline his head towards the Princess in a formal bow did not help, as it brought the fevered Kissinger brow ever closer to the Spencer bodice.

Now, frankly, do the words "Your Royal Highness" flow automatically into something along the lines of "Wow — great Zeppelins!" To have turned to the attendant press cameras and have given a meaty thumbs-up might have been considered coarse, and there was also Mrs Kissinger to consider. She was near by, and reportedly not best pleased.

We should forgive the man, therefore. The dilemma he faced was, literally, global.

## Taking on Tony Blair

Elizabeth Noel has the unenviable task of standing for the Tories in the Labour leader's constituency. Is she downhearted? Anne McElvoy finds out



Elizabeth Noel: "Every woman wants to look her best when tackling something important"

Few aspiring parliamentary candidates would warm to the task of overturning a 14,859 majority deep in enemy territory against a sitting MP who happens to be the popular Leader of the Opposition.

Worse still when your own party is preparing for the next general election in jitters about its safe seats, let alone those like Sedgefield, Co Durham, where they could put up the proverbial donkey with a red rosette round its neck and it would win.

But Lizzie Noel, fresh from her selection by the battling local Conservative association, looks undaunted, delighted and indeed a little bemused at being selected to give Tony Blair a run for his money around the villages of South Durham.

At 28, she was the youngest candidate by far on the shortlist of three. It was her first attempt to secure a nomination, although she has canvassed since 1990 in London and the Home Counties. "It seemed like incredible beginner's luck to me," she says. "I was quite scared before the interviews and expected a real

grilling from the constituency women. They have the reputation in the Tory party of being far harder on female candidates than on men. But when they came to tell me I'd got it, the women were jumping up and down and hugging me. I thought I was going to swoon."

Petite, blonde and with open, earnest features, Ms Noel is well connected among the rising generation of Conservative politicians in London. A descendant of the Earl of Gainsborough, she comes from a landed Gloucestershire family but lives alone in a beautifully designed West London house. Always exquisitely dressed — today in pin-stripe trouser suit and Gucci mohair coat — she says everyone always asks her about her clothes. "My first instinct was to say: 'You wouldn't ask that of a male candidate,' but now I'm trying hard to be polite and I just say that every woman wants to look her best when she is tackling something important to her. I can't change what I am and I hope that people will accept that."

Her political ambitions have not blunted Ms Noel's directness, nor her wicked sense of humour. At a dinner given recently by a friend notorious for dragging people into endless dull charity events, she announced not quite sotto voce: "I can hardly believe it: Violet at last you've invited me to something free!" As soon as her selection was announced, Central Office was on the telephone purveying anxious advice. "They told me not to be photographed on a swing — as if I would — and always to wear a jacket in public. It's been a jolly steep

learning curve, all this image-making stuff." She was Central Office's preferred choice, a status which often proves more of a burden than an advantage for aspiring candidates. But with Ms Noel's nomination, the "stupid party" has behaved rather cleverly. Fraught spin-doctors at Smith Square thought hard about whom to front against the horribly popular Mr Blair and decided to play Labour at its own game by choosing a young, personable and politically moderate professional woman — the sort of person you might expect to find in new Labour.

In fact, you very nearly did. Ms Noel was a Labour supporter in her early twenties and worked as a researcher for Kevin McNamara, the party's front-bench spokesman on Northern Ireland. "That was the time of my inner conversion," she recalls. "I had been on the Left because I thought

that the Labour Party cared more about people. Gradually I realised that that is an empty promise unless you deliver the prosperity and protection which really changes people's lives. I started to question the honesty of Labour's claim in this direction. And I realised how differently I

saw the world from people like Kevin." She still has cordial relations with her old boss, however: he indirectly wished her luck, telling a Tory member who teased him about his old researcher running against the Labour leader: "She's far too good for your party."

The daughter of the Hon Gerard Noel, the writer and former editor of the Catholic Herald, she is an old girl of that alma mater of high-born English Catholics, St Mary's, Ascot. From there she went to Manchester College, Oxford, where she read philosophy; her background makes her sensitive to the inverted snobbery on the Left. "I know new Labour is supposed to be different, but underneath its emphasis on achievement and success I still think that there are aspects of Labour which are suspicious and resentful of other people's good fortune."

In a party keen on pronouncing loudly on law and order, she is one of the few people qualified to comment from experience. For two and a half years, she worked in the psychology department at Wormwood Scrubs prison and is now writing a book on penal reform. One of her main tasks was developing corrective strategies for life prisoners. It left her disillusioned about the

ability of the penal system to change the way people behave. "In the end, they stop being criminals because it is a boring life-choice and not because the system has corrected them."

Sedgefield's Conservative voters need not fear that their candidate will be soft on crime. At the party conference this year, she stole the home affairs debate with recommendations that prisoners should work for a living. She seems to have a fondness for Michael Howard verging on a political crush, and prefaces a lot of sentences with "As the Home Secretary says..." "We shouldn't forget that punishment is important to society," she adds. "People have the right to expect the state to treat serious offenders strictly. We

should not be embarrassed about punishing wrong behaviour."

The next minute she is describing her dealings with the lifers in Wormwood Scrubs with nostalgic affection. "I was supposed to have a current affairs discussion with them once a week. What a farce! Why on earth should you care about the state of the nation when you only ever see your cell and the prison yard? So we used to watch cricket together instead. One day the deputy governor caught us all cheering at the Test match. I explained that cricket had contributed more to good race relations in Britain than anything the Commission for Racial Equality ever managed, so they let me carry on."

Ms Noel is, I suspect, still

undergoing more of an internal struggle about claims of penal rigour versus the "tremendous pity" she feels, as an initiate and as a practising Roman Catholic, for the long-term incarcerated.

She delivers her convictions with passion accompanied by the occasional nervous flicker and attack of self-consciousness. "I'm talking an awful lot," she says, staring ruefully at her uneaten lunch. "I suppose that's what I'm supposed to do now, isn't it?" In time, the passion will be replaced by the sheen of a natural politician's presentation skills. For now, her raw enthusiasm is itself a commodity.

"Con. gain" are not words likely to flash on to our TV screens from Sedgefield on election night. Her task makes Sisyphus's toils look easy, although no one will work harder to shave a few slivers off Labour's sovereign majority. I confidently predict defeat at the polls for Lizzie Noel — and certain success thereafter.



MIDLAND

Season's Greetings



We wish all our customers a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Midland Bank, Forward Trust, Griffin Factors and Swan National have decided not to send Christmas cards to our customers. Instead, we are donating the money to three worthy causes associated with the true spirit of Christmas.

Normally we spend £75,000 on cards and postage but by donating £25,000 each to Crisis, Help the Aged and Whizz-kidz, we hope that our contribution will make the difference to somebody else's Christmas.

and caring  
The Listening Bank

Member HSBC Group

Issued by Midland Bank plc

**CAR INSURANCE**  
**PAY BY INTEREST FREE INSTALMENTS\***  
**SAVE £££s**

- Discount for under 10,000 miles per year
- FREE 90 day Green Card
- FREE Uninsured Loss Recovery

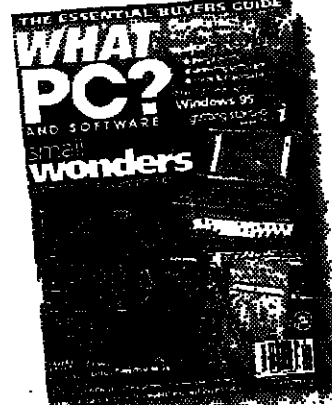
\*Available on policies taken out by 31.12.95. Subject to status, terms and conditions.

service line CALL FOR ONE TO ONE SERVICE  
**0800 00 4121**

**INSIDE SECTION**  
**2**

You'll believe a pig can talk  
the marvellous Babe  
will be the no.1  
hit of the holidays  
says Geoff Brown  
Page 35

**WHAT** makes choosing a bargain computer for Christmas easy **PC?**  
**WHAT** title helps everyone in the family get the most out of their **PC?**  
**WHAT** takes the worry and risk out of investing in your first **PC?**



Before you buy a PC, buy What PC?



## Janet Daley



### ■ To allow a plea of slow-burning provocation is to cast women as forever disadvantaged

Sara Thornton is to be sent for retrial. The Court of Appeal refused yesterday to reduce her murder conviction to manslaughter on grounds of provocation. They decided instead that there was fresh medical evidence that Mrs Thornton was suffering from a personality disorder when she killed her husband. That evidence will now be put before a fresh jury, who must evaluate it as they see fit.

What is of wider public concern is the argument which began as an interesting contest between feminism and the law, but which can also be understood as part of a larger debate about when physical violence can be justified or excused in a law-abiding society. And whether violence by certain kinds of people is more excusable than that by others. As we become more and more preoccupied with violence and the need to deal with it, such dilemmas will have to be resolved.

The Thornton case was taken to be a test of whether women can lay claim to the same plea as men when they have been violent.

### The Court of Appeal has struck a blow for equality

There has never been any question that Mrs Thornton killed her husband, Malcolm. What was at issue was whether that killing was to be defined as "murder", which requires a mandatory life sentence, or "manslaughter", which permits judges much more discretion in sentencing. There was no question either about whether the killing of Mr Thornton involved premeditation. Mrs Thornton confessed to stabbing him while he was in an unconscious stupor (induced partly by substances she had administered to him), having first sharpened the knife with which she did so.

The public debate about the charge of murder centred on whether the crime was committed "under provocation", a description that sometimes does count as a defence for men guilty of killing their spouses. Men who are "provoked" into thoughtless violence which results in the death of their female partners may plead that their temporary loss of self-control meant that they were not responsible for their actions.

That is, they did not rationally intend to kill, and so their acts must be regarded as the lesser crime of manslaughter, because they were not deliberate in the way that the law understands that word.

In reaching such verdicts, juries are usually advised to take both the behaviour of the dead spouse and the mental state of the accused into account. But the male defence of provocation is really an acknowledgement of the obvious truth that when men, particularly, lose control of their tempers they may end up causing

damage which they did not foresee. Which is why such a defence has not generally been thought to apply to women who kill their spouses.

On the whole, women are not physically capable of overpowering and killing men with their bare hands. So they almost never find themselves in a position to use spontaneous "loss of control" as a defence. Thus, men have a systematic advantage in the domestic killing stakes. Sexual egalitarianism being what it is, this state of affairs could not be allowed to continue. What feminist groups campaigned for was legal recognition of a female equivalent to the male prerogative of "provocation".

No one denies that women too may be driven to the end of their tether. If that desperate state of mind (eloquently enough described as "slow-burning impotent resentment") causes them to kill their spouses with the degree of premeditation which their relative physical weakness requires — taking advantage of the man's unconsciousness, procuring a weapon, and so on — should that not count as a version of "killing under provocation"? Almost certainly not. The distinguishing feature of acting under provocation must be the lack of premeditation. Planned murder is planned murder, however sympathetic the perpetrator may be. To excuse anyone who executes such plans is simply to license revenge killing.

Which is not to say that Sara Thornton (and other women who have killed under such circumstances) may not have had their personalities so affected by the treatment they received that they were suffering from diminished responsibility. But in refusing implicitly to widen the definition of "provocation", the Court of Appeal has actually struck a blow for female equality. It has refused to weaken the test of moral responsibility for what we would all be furious to hear described as "the weaker sex". But that is not the way feminists see it. They want special treatment for women, whom they see as perennially disadvantaged.

In the same spirit perhaps, the law has been coming down heavily on victims of crime who have used violence to defend themselves or their property — so much so that the Crown Prosecution Service has now warned the police to lighten up. Is this not the logical end of the victim culture? Women and criminals — the deprived and disadvantaged of society — must be protected from the consequences of their own actions. Even if that means redefining the crime of murder.



Hats on to the modernists: these brand leaders all use the same rhetoric, whether it be new monarchy, new airline or new Labour

## New heroes of the 1990s

### Headgear and humming-birds herald a fresh age of modernism

My attitude to modernism is mixed. I do not share all its beliefs, but I admire its influence. My own view of the world is temperamentally Tory. I have felt from birth that things now are not what they were in my day: my day belongs to the 1730s when George II was on the throne, Robert Walpole was in Downing Street, William Hogarth was England's rising painter, Alexander Pope was writing his Moral Essays, George Frederick Handel was composing oratorios and Lord Burlington was designing Palladian villas. There has been nothing like it since.

Yet that does not set me against the 1990s. I have lived through several worse decades: there was not much to be said for the 1930s, when one had to balance the dancing of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers against the actions of Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini; the 1940s were heroic but tragic; the 1950s were grey and threatening; the 1960s were lively but trashy; the 1970s were inflationary; I rather enjoyed the Thatcherite and Reaganite 1980s, which so much annoyed some people. Compared to earlier decades, the 1990s seem quite pleasant, though it is a pity about the decline of Europe.

Although no modernist myself, I did work on *The Sunday Times* in the 1960s, when we were the newspaper of the *Zeitgeist*, with Mark Boxer editing the colour magazine and Tony Snowdon taking the photographs. There was even a pop song which had the refrain: "Thank you very much for *The Sunday Times*, I thank you very, very, very, very much." One could not work in such an atmosphere without appreciating the energy that comes from being precisely in tune with the mood of the moment. The 1960s Kennedy myth, of youth, of new ideas, of freshness, of vigour of fashion itself, destroyed the Tory predominance of the Macmillan period. In the run-up to the 1964 election, Harold Wilson campaigned, skilfully if not quite convincingly, on the Kennedy themes.

It seems that the new age has come round again, as it does every 30 years or so. In the 1920s it was symbolised by the Prince of Wales, later Edward VIII, by cocktails and jazz, by the flappers and by Evelyn Waugh's set at Oxford. In the 1960s, it was symbolised by the Beatles, by Mary Quant and King's Road fashion, by the photographers led by Lord Snow-

don himself. In the 1990s the leading symbolic figure is the Princess of Wales, but there are others; the 1990s seems to have a larger share of caring than the 1960s, when dropping out was more fashionable.

As a symbol, the Princess of Wales's baseball cap seems to have fascinated the public. There is much curiosity about the significance of number 492 on the front. There is serious discussion about the right way to wear such a cap, whether in her style with the peak in front, or with it behind. I had at first assumed that the camera angle had obscured the number "1" before the 492, and that the Princess was celebrating, rather belatedly, the quincentenary of Columbus's voyage to America. I should have known better.

Columbus is a notorious Dwem (Dead White European Male), perhaps the greatest Dwem of them all. He is therefore part of the enemy, not of the modernist style.

The Princess is no doubt our leading contemporary cultural icon, but there are others whom the cap would fit. In October 1992, when the world was younger than it is today, St John's, Smith Square, gave a charity concert. As we were then living nearby, we were asked to host the reception before the dinner that followed. It thus came about that I introduced Richard Branson to the Princess of Wales: it was the first time I had met either of them, and was, I think, the first time they had met one another. Yet he is another famous child of the *Zeitgeist*. As we used to say in the 1960s, "He is where it is at". Branson could wear the baseball cap and not look at all ridiculous.

Nor would Tony Blair, who has the most contemporary grin in the business, a sort of update of Tommy Steele's in the 1960s. He is far more genuine and effective in this contemporary role than Harold Wilson ever was. Look how successful these modernists all are: the Princess has played a difficult hand as though she held all the trumps — whether one likes it or not, it has been a brilliant

political performance; Richard Branson is turning a niche into a network; Tony Blair has made Labour an almost universal party of the people. They all use the same rhetoric: new monarchy, new airline, new Labour. It is as though they had anticipated the imagination of the public, and could manipulate the subconscious of the 1990s.

Modernism has also always had its failures. Edward VIII turned out to be a flop; his appeal was simply his contrast to the conservatism of his father, King George V. Nick Leeson is another New Age failure: the reason scored the number "1" before the 492, and that the Princess was celebrating, rather belatedly, the quincentenary of Columbus's voyage to America. I should have known better.

There have been photographs of Leeson wearing a cap not unlike the Princess's: he too is a child of his time.

In politics, Tony Blair can wear the cap with assurance, but John Major cannot. Indeed the 1990s are politically rather similar to the 1960s: the Tories have simply gone out of fashion: it is out of sympathy with the new people, the new ideas, even the new language. Some Tory Members of Parliament resented the Princess's *Panorama* interview. She did, without in the least intending to, make them look absurdly old-fashioned and stuffy, which some of them are. She merely wanted to persuade a couple of hundred million people that the circle around her husband had been hostile to her and was out of date. She succeeded. Up popped Nicholas Soames and Patrick Cormack to persuade the world that they were just as modern. Indeed the enemies of the modern movement seldom look good: Richard Branson's competitors always turn out to look like bullies, and like rather sleazy bullies at that.

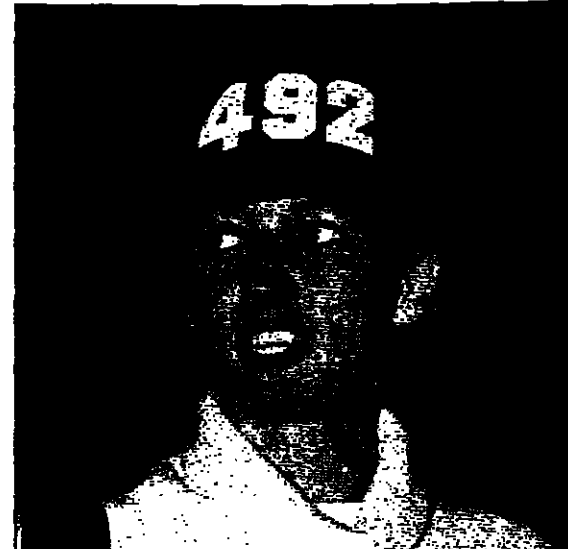
Each time this public mood comes round, one hears the same refrain: "Don't you realise, we're living in the 1920s?" — which became "the 1960s", and now "the 1990s". The urge to ring

out the old and ring in the new is the ragtime tune of every generation. The modernists can and probably should be laughed at. They tend to lack a sense of history or irony, though they often have a good sense of fun. The movement produces its quota of zealots, unrestrained by the limitations of past experience, and of charlatans, who strike poses to astonish the crowd. Yet the charlatans themselves often have something interesting to say. Percy Bysshe Shelley was a tiresome poseur, but beyond question he was also a great poet.

If one strikes a balance, democratic modernism almost certainly does more good than harm: it is totalitarian modernism we need to be afraid of. Goebbels exploited these same themes in his black propaganda. Though I do not share their temperamental view, I have no doubt that John F. Kennedy was good for America, that the Princess of Wales is good for the British monarchy, or that Richard Branson is a stimulus for British business. Modernism in the 1990s is not only fashionable, but has elements of compassion, energy and hope which human nature always responds to. As Alexander Pope observed, "The dull may waken to a humming-bird". The dull are wide awake now.

The power of modernism is something people fail to recognise at their peril. The Prince's friends should have seen from the beginning that the Princess was, at least, a most formidable adversary. British Airways should have seen that Richard Branson could not easily be bullied or brushed aside. The Conservative Party has every reason to be afraid of Tony Blair. Admittedly, the modernists of the 1990s are packages rather than intellectual innovators.

The Princess of Wales is a package, brilliantly self-formulated; Richard Branson is the business package; Tony Blair has packaged himself and new Labour as well. We are being sold carefully controlled images. The outcomes of these campaigns are not yet predictable. I think there probably will be some sort of new monarchy, perhaps mediated by the Queen herself. I do not know whether Richard Branson will be eaten by the airline ogres or will still be singing as the curtain falls. I am fairly sure that new Labour will be the next government, but I suspect that new Tories may form the one after. Yet I am sure what the public mood is: this is the hour of the humming-bird.



## Join us over Europe

### Robin Cook asks Tory moderates to vote with Labour

The Tory party's truce over Europe is dead, but it was always fragile, and it was ruthlessly put down by yesterday's outbreak of dialogue by megaphone.

The depth of the divide was revealed by John Redwood's contradicting himself within hours of his press conference. If such a senior figure is unsure whether he is launching a campaign to persuade the Prime Minister or to agree with him, it is not surprising the public is confused.

This latest Euro-furor is only one more incident on the route march forced upon it by the Euro-phobe wing, which over the past year has set about converting the Conservative Party into the English Nationalist Party. Such is its evangelical fervour that it has convinced half the Cabinet, and half-convinced the party leader, that the Conservative Party could scrape through an election by playing the nationalist card and claiming Labour would give away Scotland to the Scots and be soft on Brussels.

But this gambit hangs upon a travesty of Labour's position. Labour is not committed to a federal superstate. We intend to devolve power down to local communities and regions of Britain, not to centralise it up to Brussels. We can outbid the Tories in any electoral auction over subsidiarity, for we offer real subsidiarity within Britain. Nor will we abandon the veto on areas of strategic importance. We will retain it on matters such as the European budget, taxation, border controls and foreign and security issues.

On the single currency, Labour says that Britain's condition for entry must be convergence of economic performance in the real world of jobs, industrial output and productivity. And Tony Blair has repeatedly said that any decision on joining a single currency can only be taken with the consent of the British people.

We offer a constructive engagement in Europe, not because we are carried away by any grand European design, but because we know it is the only way to obtain the best deal for the people of Britain. Most of our exports go to the continent, and it is vital for British jobs that we coordinate economic policy to maximise its impact on employment. The quality of our environment depends on common action with our neighbours to reduce the pollution in our air and on our shores. And peace for our country depends on stability on the continent, for which the best guarantee is enlargement of a healthy EU to support the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe.

That brings me to the second problem the Tories have in playing on a nationalist wicket. Public opinion about Europe is much more complex and subtle than the stark simplicities of Mr Redwood and his friends. The public does not like the idea of Britain being bullied by other nations or themselves being told what to do by Brussels. But it will not thank a Government that contrives always to be on the losing side in Brussels and so pushes Britain to the sidelines of Europe. What the public wants is a British Government that will show leadership in Europe and demonstrate its strength, not by standing alone but by winning its arguments.

The real weakness of the Government's approach to next year's inter-governmental conference is that it is passive. The repeated assurances by Malcolm Rifkind that Britain is prepared to veto everyone else's proposals cannot conceal that he goes in the conference without any programme of his own, far less a strategy for building alliances.

The final problem that a nationalist ticket gives the Conservatives is that the public is too intelligent to imagine that isolation is a viable strategy in a world increasingly dominated by global economic forces. The business community knows that the rhetoric of Michael Portillo may win votes at party conference, but will not win orders in the international market place. A recent CBI survey of business opinion found that three out of five member companies believe that the controversy over Europe has hindered the promotion of Britain's interests.

Our allies outside Europe do not want Britain isolated within it. The path to negotiating a transatlantic free trade area runs through the conference rooms of Brussels. We weaken our influence from Washington to Canberra if we weaken our influence in Europe.

It would be ungenerous for even a Labour politician not to recognise that many Tory MPs understand this. The Euro-phobes are a minority in the Tory party, which itself has a bare majority in Parliament. There is a cross-party majority in Parliament for a strategy of constructive engagement in Europe. The large question for next year's conference is whether those Tory MPs who know that Britain's future lies in Europe will be willing to assert this parliamentary majority. It requires them to show the courage to save Britain from being marginalised in Europe and to save their own party from a retreat into narrow nationalism which belongs to a past century of nation-states, rather than next century's global economy. The author is Shadow Foreign Secretary.

## Baton battles

TWO OF BRITAIN'S most famous orchestras yesterday appeared to be heading for a shotgun wedding, after the players of the Royal Philharmonic sacked their managing director, Paul Findlay, and their marketing consultant, Ewen Balfour.

The players cited a "real lack of confidence" in the pair, and said that the orchestra's deficit had been rising alarmingly throughout the year. "We will never allow ourselves to go bust," blasted John Bimson, the horn player who chairs the orchestra's board.

There are no plans to appoint another MD, which raises the prospect of a merger of the RPO with its arch-rival, the London Philharmonic. Lord Young of Graffham raised the idea some time ago, and it may have to be resurrected. The London Philharmonic also parted company with its MD this year, and has yet to replace him.

Lord Young claimed that his plan could save both orchestras £600,000 in office expenses and at the same time build a "super-orchestra" for Britain. At first the players of both orchestras turned up their noses, preferring their

cherished independence. But now they sound so desperate that a merger cannot be ruled out. "We may well meet to look at our mutual problems," concedes Bimson.

● An extraordinary story is doing the rounds which can only do credit to the entrepreneurial approach of the new Editor of the *Sunday Express*, Sue Douglas. She is said to have invited the



"Must they make a song and dance about it?"

Princess of Wales to be a columnist on the newspaper where Princess Alexandra's daughter Marina cut her journalistic teeth. The queen of hearts has yet to reply.

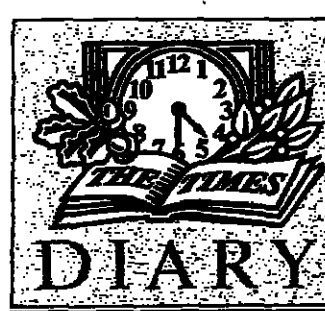
### This little piggy

ALTHOUGH it doesn't open until tomorrow, people are already kicking up dirt over the new hit film *Babe*, about a piglet which bucks the farmyard hierarchy by winning the prize at a sheepdog trial. For fear of offending sensitive cinema-goers, the star-turn, a male piglet called *Babe*, is played by a female.

Dick King-Smith, author of the original story, says the sex change is "ridiculous", but acknowledged that the maturity of the male pigs might raise eyebrows. "It was thought that a back view of a well-endowed male might not be acceptable," he said. "But I don't think kids would even notice."

### Poking fun

KEN LIVINGSTONE was boasting about his garden pond and green fingers on Tuesday night when he was brought quickly to task at Speaker's House. The occa-



sion followed the first recording of *Gardeners' Question Time* at the Commons, and the programme was introduced by that flower of the House, Betty Boothroyd.

Madame Speaker rushed up to the MP for Brent East to ask for more details about his question to the panel. "Why are you struggling with your red-hot poker?" she demanded. He had explained during the recording (which will be broadcast on Christmas Eve) that they keep on dying — 25 years on and three gardens later.

"Obviously your soil's far too rich," pronounced the former Tiller-girl, flag in hand, before she swooped upon the next MP to profess horticultural interests.

● A timely Christmas card reached me yesterday — obviously in anticipation of the Bosnian peace treaty. The faces of Crown

Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia and his wife and three sons beam out opposite a Christmas message and the legend "Peace".

### One's kiss

THE TENSION between the BBC and Buckingham Palace is palpable after the Princess of Wales's *Panorama* interview. Matters may not have been helped by a documentary to be shown next week about the Royal Yacht, *Britannia*.

Surfing the new wave of royal coverage, the programme shows what is said to be the first kiss on television between the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. Although the makers refuse to comment on the contents, sources within the television industry suggest that the moment of intimacy, so sadly wanting in other royal marriages, should improve relations between the Palace and the corporation.

Buckingham Palace, however, would not be drawn.

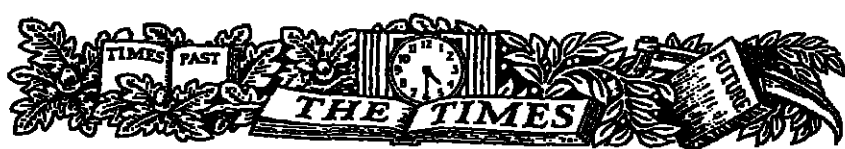
● Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, had the temerity to ask the empress Thatcher of her views on the strike in France. "Wonderful," she replied, with a radiant glow. For whom, though?



Clinched: royal appointment

P.H.S





## ONE QUARTER

The Chancellor's caution is endangering his own forecast

When Kenneth Clarke delivered his Budget last month, he promised that the economy would grow by 3 per cent next year even if interest rates did not fall. This forecast was met with some incredulity, as it presumed a significant acceleration of economic activity at a time when, if anything, growth seemed to be slowing. Now that the Chancellor has finally decided to cut interest rates, albeit by a slender quarter point, does this make his prediction more realistic?

This cut will have to be the first of several if Mr Clarke is to have even a chance of achieving a decent rate of growth next year. As the "three wise men" who are all that is left of the Chancellor's team of outside economic advisers said in a letter on this page yesterday, the indicators suggest a further weakening in the next few months. Yet Mr Clarke's forecast "imply quite a dramatic improvement in economic conditions between the sluggishness of late 1995 and the relative buoyancy in early 1996."

Most of the evidence points in the opposite direction. Companies seem more likely at the moment to run down their stocks rather than increase production. The construction industry is suffering from recession. Moreover, as the wise men remind Mr Clarke, our European neighbours look set for a downturn, which would be bad news for British exports.

Even yesterday's apparently good statistics provide little cheer. Unemployment may have fallen in November by 20,400 but total employment has declined for the first time in two years. Fewer people are signing on, but they seem to be withdrawing from the labour market altogether rather than finding jobs. And although retail sales volume rose by 0.6 per cent in November this followed three months of extreme weakness. Over the past year, spending in the high street has risen by just 1 per cent.

So why is Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, demanding such caution of the Chancellor? He would argue that his brief is to keep inflation low, and that cutting interest rates could jeopardise that task. But is Britain really facing another bout of "stagflation" — low growth com-

bined with rising prices? Hardly. The underlying inflation rate is just 2.9 per cent, dropping to 2.4 per cent if indirect taxes are stripped out. This figure is predicted to fall in the next few months. Meanwhile wage inflation remains very subdued.

Mr Clarke's behaviour thus seems all the more puzzling. Although we can accept a degree of hypersensitivity about inflation from central bank governors, politicians have a duty to look more widely. When the Chancellor gave his backbenchers a meagre Budget in November, they consoled themselves on two counts: interest rates would fall sharply, and taxes could be cut in next year's Budget instead. As it is, interest rates are being cut by the thinnest slices; and that very caution is making the prospect of tax cuts next year look more remote. For the result of lower-than-forecast growth will be higher public sector borrowing and even less room for manoeuvre. At this rate, Mr Clarke could find himself just as boxed in next year as he was last month.

Almost as damaging as the two men's caution has been their confusing behaviour over the past few weeks. They have set out to lay false trails and to deliver a muddled message to markets, businesses and consumers, they could not have done better. Only last week, Mr George implied that interest rates should not be cut at all. And Mr Clarke has consistently dampened expectations of lower rates. This is no way to encourage investors, consumers and housebuyers — all of whom must contribute to the golden forecast of 3 per cent.

The Conservatives have now consistently trailed Labour for two years in polls on economic competence. This is partly due to Labour's popularity, but it also has something to do with the confusing presentation of government economic policy. Britain's economic performance has been steady to good since it left the ERM; but the hesitancy of the Chancellor's approach has deflected credit from where it is due. People could be forgiven for remembering fondly the days when the Chancellor simply stood up in the Commons and announced his interest rate cut at the end of the Budget.

## PRINCELY ACHIEVEMENT

This year's awards for the nation's quiet civic heroes

The presentation of the tenth annual *Times*/Touche Ross Community Enterprise Awards by the Prince of Wales yesterday was a celebration of the best in British civic life. For a decade, the awards have been a means of acknowledging outstanding community leaders who, by their efforts and resourcefulness, improve their neighbours' quality of living. This year's winners, honoured yesterday at St James's Palace, epitomise the spirit of enterprise and social responsibility which the awards were founded to promote.

In South Shields, Tyne and Wear, the St Simon's Community Project has found work for 140 people and encouraged local debate about unemployment. In Newham, the most deprived borough in Britain, the South Canning Town Sculpture Garden offers an oasis of horticultural imagination to people with few pleasant amenities. The overall winner of the Charles Douglas-Horne Award was the Old Chapel Housing and Community Trust in Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Nottingham, an enterprise which has offered shelter to more than 4,000 homeless people in a depressed mining town. Although the 11 successful projects could scarcely be more different, they have in common an entrepreneurial mission to help communities out of dependency. State funding usually plays a part in such schemes; but local initiative is their life-blood.

The involvement of the Prince of Wales in the Community Enterprise Awards has been central to their success. The heir to the throne may not be the most glamorous member of the Royal Family but he is certainly the most visionary. Those who claim that he is out of touch with the problems of ordinary people do him an injustice. Greatly to the Prince's credit, he has invested his energy in charities and projects which produce few sensations but many long-term results. He has lent his support to causes which encourage people to help themselves, to start their own businesses and escape the cycle of deprivation.

The success of these activities — notably the Prince's Trust — has been striking. More than 60 per cent of the unemployed people on his schemes end up in work or further education. The top 100 businesses set up by the Prince of Wales Youth Business Trust employ 2,000 people with a turnover of £50 million. These achievements are not always in the headlines. But the quiet work carried out tirelessly by the Prince deserves unqualified respect and admiration.

In a speech last year, he praised the "unhistoric acts" which are the foundation of civilised life. This year's winners of the Community Enterprise Awards meet the challenge which he posed, performing such acts of dedicated kindness in the places where they are needed most.

## NEW TOKYO

The Japanese Government is looking for a new home

Wary of the noise, size, clutter and claustrophobia of Tokyo, bureaucrats have been muttering for the past 30 years about moving out to pastures new, where "platform pushers" would not be needed to squeeze them into the commuter trains, streets could have proper names and the journey to the airport would take less time than the flight to Paris. Tokyo has a 70-year earthquake cycle. Spurred by the fact that the next quake is now two years overdue, the Government has taken the plunge and yesterday officially recommended relocating the capital. It does not know where to go, but knows what it wants: a site with no mountains, fresh rivers but not too much snow, a handy international airport and, above all, no earthquakes lurking beneath the tectonic plates.

It is a tall order, but at least 16 prefectures claim they have the perfect spot and are sparing no effort to win the order. It is, after all, a developer's dream that could keep the hard-hit building industry in sushi for years — about £90 billion worth of construction for the first decade and the promise that *le tout Tokyo*, some 30 million people, might move in once the city is finished. A smart developer's first task will be to find a home for the Emperor. The Japanese capital, by tradition, is where the imperial family lives, and over 1,500 years it has wandered.

In medieval Europe a peripatetic court used to travel from city to city, castle to castle — usually because the stench of drains, or lack of them, grew overpowering after more than a few months. In more recent times,

capitals have been moved for a variety of other reasons. Peter the Great wanted to escape the beards and peasant habits of the Moscow boyars, and migrated to the marshes of the Gulf of Finland to open his window on the West. Atatürk found the Sublime Porte in Constantinople too enmeshed in Ottoman history and created his Turkish vision of European suburbia in Ankara, a city previously known largely for a particular breed of rabbit.

Federations made up of jealous states took the easy way out by selecting for their capitals a marsh, a jungle or a patch of bare land: Washington, Brasilia and Canberra are the results. Some capitals, such as Lagos, simply silted up and were abandoned by military strongmen. And others, such as Berlin, were lost in war and had to be replaced with temporary expedients.

Bonn was never more than a village however hard it tried. An unkind American reporter remarked in the early 1950s that it was "half the size of a Chicago graveyard and twice as dead" and the epithet stuck. It was not until about 1975 that people in Washington stopped asking "Have you tried the French restaurant yet?" The omens for Tokyo's provincial successor are therefore not good. The Emperor may move; the bullet trains may shuttle Tokyans to new offices; and the planners may establish a population of 600,000 by 2010. But would all those salarymen really want to live so close to home? What excuse could they then give for staying in town after a business evening of sake and geishas?

## Cost of U-turn on NHS bureaucracy

From Dr J. P. Griffin, FRCP

Sir, Official figures show an increase in the number of general and senior managers in the National Health Service from 500 in 1986 to 20,000 in 1993 (report, December 5). Over the same period the number of nurses and midwives has fallen by 36,000.

At a meeting of the Working Party on Health Care Reforms in Europe, held in Kiel, Germany, from November 27 to 30, I stated that the costs of the Family Health Service Authority administration had "risen by 80 per cent and the cost of hospital administration by 1,700 per cent between 1985 and 1993". The current Department of Health figures show a 4,000 per cent increase in the number of administrators.

The Secretary of State now proposes to reduce the number by 10,000 (report, December 6). I have no sympathy with the bureaucratic edifice which has directed resources away from patient care. I do have sympathy, however, with those thousands of people who are going to lose their jobs as a result of a policy U-turn. Loss of job, and even the threat of it, creates significant mortality and morbidity, as medical studies have shown.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN P. GRIFFIN,  
Quartermasters,  
Digswell Lane, Digswell,  
Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire.  
December 8.

## Disarming the IRA

From Mr Alan Leadbetter

Sir, John Major, speaking today after the IRA and Sinn Féin reiterated their old positions regarding disarmament ahead of talks, said that Sinn Féin must make up its mind, and questioned whether Mr Adams had been deceiving people.

His remarks cannot be justified. Sinn Féin's position has always been that the IRA will not disarm in advance of talks, and it has always been completely open about this. One suspects that the emotion shown by government ministers when speaking about Northern Ireland is because they know they themselves have caused the impasse, by making a demand of the IRA that is of no practical value and, in any case, is clearly impossible for an organisation in the IRA's position to fulfil.

The Government says that it must insist on disarmament before talks, because without it, the Unionist parties will not talk.

I believe that the Government's attempts to pass the blame for the present situation — either on to Sinn Féin or on to the Unionist parties — do not hold water.

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN LEADBETTER,  
18 Madison Street,  
Tunstall,  
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire.  
December 8.

From Mr John Winterbottom

Sir, Given the vast collection of explosives and weapons held by the terrorist organisations in Ireland, the need to decommission cannot be challenged. What seems unclear, however, is the ownership of these arms and the choice of actions after this process starts.

The respective arsenals have been acquired over many years and at very considerable cost. Are they to be purchased by the respective governments or agencies? Can they then be re-sold on the international market, or will they be locked away in some secure establishment, or just destroyed?

A little light shone on these questions would not come amiss.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN WINTERBOTTOM,  
Orchard House,  
Kiln Hill, Soberton,  
Southampton, Hampshire.  
December 8.

## Seasonal shudder

From Mr R. D. Parkinson

Sir, I read with a shudder the extracts from Sir Graham Bright's dreadful family newsletter, *Bright News* (Daily, December 9).

It was in order to remove the need for such effusions that, in 1843, Sir Henry Cole, the first director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, commissioned the first Christmas card, beginning a multi-million-pound international industry of greetings-card manufacture.

The card is at present on display at the main entrance of the Victoria & Albert Museum.

Yours faithfully,  
R. D. PARKINSON,  
13 Childbert Road, SW17.  
December 12.

## Oh dear

From Mr Reg Tizard

Sir, Iona Meek is intrigued by birth announcements for "baby boy" or "baby girl" (letter, December 6).

She will soon be overwhelmed by the story of the "infant child".

Yours faithfully,  
REG TIZARD,  
Boat Barn Cottage,  
Westgate Street,  
Blakeney, Norfolk.  
December 6.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Raising the stakes on alcohol limits

From Dr Robert M. H. Lefever

Sir, The Secretary of State for Health, in raising the number of units of alcohol that may be considered safe to drink in any week (report and leading article, December 13), is acting on advice that misunderstands the nature of the problem.

For those who have an addictive nature it is the first use of any mood-altering substance in any day that does the damage; it leads to the next and then the next. There is a saying in Alcoholics Anonymous that one drink is too many and a hundred too few.

The concept of sensible drinking is for those who can do it — and they most commonly don't need the advice in the first place. Those who can't will continue to exceed whatever level the minister sets.

Sincerely,  
ROBERT LEFEVER,  
2a Pelham Street, SW7.  
December 13.

From Mr Paul Ashton

Sir, In your leader on the new "safe" drinking limits, you say, correctly, that those of us who drink little "find those who drink a lot boring, irritating and embarrassing".

We also find drinkers under the influence of alcohol to be responsible for a large proportion of domestic violence cases, and of many other violent crimes. Despite "drink/drive" campaigns, we find that drink is linked to one in six road deaths.

Given these facts, it is beyond me why smokers (of whom I am not one) rather than drinkers are made social pariahs. Passive smoking is claimed, also by "scientific evidence", to be responsible for far less damage to third parties than drink. Further, although

smokers may be unhealthy (relative to non-smokers), their habit does not make them boring, irritating or embarrassing.

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL ASHTON,  
37 Benbow Avenue,  
Langney Point,  
Eastbourne, East Sussex.  
December 13.

From Mr Stanley Chappell

Sir, I enjoy a glass of wine. My problem is what is a glass? A local Chinese restaurant serves wine in 75ml glasses. I was brought up on 125ml whilst my local pub carvery serves wine in 175ml glasses, which is virtually four glasses to one bottle.

Yours faithfully,  
STANLEY CHAPPELL,  
31 Brooks Road, Wyde Green,  
Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.  
December 13.

From Mr J. B. Gresham

Sir, Has anyone, ever, refused a drink on the grounds that they have reached the government "safe limits" for that day or week?

Yours sincerely,  
J. B. GRESHAM,  
130 Duke Street,  
Southport, Merseyside.  
December 13.

From Mr Robin Tobin

Sir, Thanks to Stephen Dorrell I'm already beginning to experience the "feel-good" factor.

Yours etc,  
R. TOBIN,  
87a Melrose Avenue, NW2.  
December 12.

### The Princess and the homeless

From Mrs Mary E. Guppy

Sir, At last we have someone with a high profile ready to highlight the young people sleeping homeless on city streets. What happens? The political parties get embroiled in one of their usual arguments — with the Princess of Wales being used as a scapegoat (letters, December 9).

In the 1960s, when I was young and living in London, one very rarely saw homeless youngsters begging — now it is commonplace. This is not just a political matter: it is a subject which concerns everyone.

We should listen to the Princess of Wales, stop wrangling over petty matters, and allow both parties to work towards eradicating this dreadful state of affairs.

Yours faithfully,  
M. E. GUPPY,  
Little Bones, Welford Road,  
South Kilworth, Leicestershire.  
December 8.

From Mr Allan Hodgkinson

Sir, The Princess of Wales is fully justified in drawing attention to the terrible problem of youth homelessness and its repercussions.

The country's assessment of priorities is surely awry when over £70 million can be found for the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden at a time when there are young people in its vicinity who do not even have a roof above them.

Would it not be an investment in social cohesion to use the same sum to finance a number of basic hostels providing the necessities of life — shelter, warmth and food? Such a policy would go some way to avoid the alienation of the young people concerned, a factor we ignore at our peril.

Yours sincerely,  
ALLAN HODGKINSON,  
2 The Raikes,  
Great Eccleston, Preston, Lancashire.  
December 7.

From Miss Anne Budgett

Sir, On December 7, the day on which the Princess of Wales visited Centrepoint, thus making front-page news in all the media on the following day, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were carrying out a number of engagements in Staffordshire, visiting a sheltered-housing scheme, a business-link centre, a ceramics factory and a new hospital.

Prince Charles was at a meeting of a college of estate management in Berkshire and a military establishment in Buckinghamshire. Princess Anne was at meetings of the Princess Royal

### Not for gobbling

From Mr David Singleton

Sir, I was greatly relieved when Linda McCartney's secret envoy, Mrs Maynard-Rollings, outbid me at the Midlands Champion Turkey auction (report, later editions, December 7). With a blank cheque she raised the bidding to £3,000 in a frantic bid to free the turkey from the dinner table.

Presumably Mrs McCartney was not aware that for the last six years I have paid £500 to £1,200 for the annual champ, which I have then given to a school where it spends the rest of its days on their farm.

Yours,  
DAVID SINGLETON  
(General Manager),  
Jefferson's Restaurant and Bar,  
Stratford Road, Monkspath,  
Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands.  
December 12.

Trust for Carers and the executive committee of the Army Board, and attended a Save the Children Fund dinner.

Princess Margaret was at a council meeting of the British Museum Development Trust; the Duke of Gloucester visited a building-society headquarters and a truck-manufacturing company in Cheshire; and the Duke of Kent visited an aerospace engineering company in Nottingham and presented one of the Queen's Awards for Export Achievement in London.

Most people do not realise how much the Royal Family does for this country; and that, in my view, is the fault of the media's reporting.

Yours sincerely,  
ANNE BUDGETT,  
35 Mapledene,  
Kew Road, Chislehurst, Kent.  
December 8.

From the Reverend

Douglas J. L. Bean

Sir, From my experience as a former vicar in a central London parish I believe that many many Londoners who do not use the beds available to them prefer the streets because they feel them to be safer and there is more companionship. Neither do they like being told to have a bath and have their clothes cleaned; they feel their independence is being taken away.

I dealt with about three to four tramps, or men of the road, every night for 22 years, and that was what I was so often told. Being in a flat was too lonely.

Yours sincerely,  
DOUGLAS BEAN,  
(Vicar of St Pancras, 1972-93).  
The Vicarage,  
Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire.  
December 8.

### Royal headgear

From Mr J. C. Gunner

Sir, It seems that speculation continues about the Princess of Wales's baseball cap (feature, December 5; Daily, December 7). The numbers 492 are no mystery. The cap is part of the uniform for a USAF airman.

The 492nd Fighter Squadron is part of the 48th Fighter Wing based at RAF Lakenheath in Suffolk. The caps are worn to distinguish between the three squadrons on the aerodrome.

The intriguing question is why HRH would wear such a garment.

Yours,  
JEREMY GUNNER,  
Forge Cottage, Buckland, Surrey.

### Double trouble

From Mr Alan Taylor

Sir, A letter received from my bank confirmed my very worst fears about the lengths to which they will pursue me — I have been assigned a "Shadow Relationship Manager".

Yours apprehensively,  
ALAN TAYLOR,  
South Colwell Farm,  
Colwell Lane,  
Haywards Head, West Sussex.  
December 7.

Business letters, page 29

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

### London treaties great and small

From Mr A. J. Maltby

Sir, Your leading article, "Treaty, treaty on the wall" (December 9), says "the Crimean War was made all the more complex by its end in the Treaty of Kuchuk-Kainardji: how tedious it would now seem if that pact had been done in Paris instead".

If the history that I have taught throughout my career is correct the Treaty of Kuchuk-Kainardji ended the Russo-Turkish War, fought in Catherine the Great's reign in 1774. The Crimean War was concluded in 1856 by the Treaty of Paris.

Yours faithfully,  
TONY MALTBY  
(Headmaster, Trent College, 1968-83),  
Little Singleton Farm,  
Great Chart, Ashford, Kent.  
December 11.

From Dr Raymond Hutchings

Sir, Your editorial claims that "There are no great treaties of Unosteter or Bude, nor even one of London". Signed on April 26, 1915, by Britain, Italy, France and Russia, the Treaty of London acknowledged that various annexations might be made by Italy, Montenegro, Greece and Serbia of Albanian territory, so that only an autonomous and neutral rump would be left.

Although the treaty was kept secret, its contents were learnt by Serbia. It was made public by the Bolsheviks following their revolution.

This infamous intended sacrifice of Albania for the sake of allied or prospectively allied powers eventually became inoperative because of the ejection of Albanians from their territory of Italian forces and a resolution on December 17, 1920, which led to Albania's admission to the League of Nations.

Yours faithfully,  
R. HUTCHINGS,  
168 Turnpike Link, Croydon, Surrey.

From Mr Robin Bowen-Williams

Sir, No great Treaty of London? Choose not to recall London (1839), which sorted out little Belgium's separation from Holland, but surely forget not London (1518), which united the Holy Roman Emperor and various kings, including Henry VIII, against the Turks and allowed Thomas Wolsey to proclaim himself "Arbiter of Christendom".

You can also have Bristol and Richmond, which sought to ease relations with Spain, and Greenwich (fostering an alliance with the Dutch). All were treaties from the 16th century.

Yours faithfully,  
R. BOWEN-WILLIAMS,  
130 Water Eaton Road, Bletchley,  
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.  
December 9.

From Mr Christopher Kingston

Sir, Many of your Irish readers will wonder if "the 1972 treaty on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping" will have the long duration of influence enjoyed by its London counterpart of 1921.

The latter is known in Ireland as "The Treaty, the very lack of the name 'London' being a testament to its importance.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER KINGSTON,  
45a Barton Road, W14.

From Mr A. J. Aust

Sir, There are precedents for naming a treaty after the place where it was negotiated, but not signed. The Treaty of Locarno was signed in the Foreign Office, the fine room where the ceremony took place being re-named the Locarno room.

And there is a London treaty of historical importance: the London Agreement, which established the Nuremberg Tribunal.

"Treaty" is a generic name. A treaty may be called "agreement", "convention", "pact", "protocol", even "memorandum of understanding". A treaty recently registered with the United Nations has the title "Timetable", having been drafted as the annex to a treaty on Russian troop withdrawals from Lithuania which itself was never signed.

Yours sincerely,  
ANTHONY AUST,  
5 Coulter Road, W6.

From Mr P. W. Still

Sir, Your view that there are no great treaties of London would no doubt have been shared by the German Chancellor, Bethmann Hollweg.

In August 1914, when Britain declared war on Germany for violating the Treaty of London (1839) by invading Belgium, Bethmann Hollweg referred to the treaty as a "scrap of paper".

Yours faithfully,  
P. W. STILL,  
9 Cavendish House,  
Eastgate Gardens, Guildford, Surrey.

### Tinkering with words

From Mrs E. Tross Youle

Sir, A propos "verbine" (letter, December 8), I heard on Radio 4 yesterday that the new Archbishop of York was "fanfared" at his enthronement.

Yours faithfully,  
ELIZABETH TROSS YOULE,  
18 Hamilton Avenue,  
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.  
December 9.







## OBITUARIES

## PROFESSOR GILLIAN ROSE

Gillian Rose, philosopher, died of cancer on December 9 aged 48. She was born on September 20, 1947.

PHILOSOPHY in the late 20th century is, or ought to be, a more strenuous vocation than at any time in history. Gillian Rose was rare, perhaps unique, in being equal to the challenge. Her quest for alternatives to the intellectual *cul de sac* in which she found her generation led her to explore traditions despised at most Anglo-American universities, and to rise above academic mediocrity.

Her early death has silenced a great scholar in her prime: an authority on all continental, and especially German thought; on theology, sociology, political theory and post-modernism. But it has also extinguished a new star in the firmament of English letters.

Earlier this year, already gravely ill, Rose published her last short book, an autobiographical meditation aptly entitled *Love's Work*. It resonated far beyond the academic sphere. Here her prose attained a concrete simplicity and existential intensity; her eloquent suffering was transfigured by a radiant spirituality which embraced both Jewish and Christian elements.

Gillian Rosemary Stone, as she was born, grew up in a Jewish family in west London, highly talented (her sister Jacqueline is also an eminent academic) but overshadowed by memories of the Holocaust: her maternal grandmother was the only survivor of her family. She suffered from dyslexia which, she wrote, "is fraught with significance in a Jewish child" (especially one as precociously intelligent as her); her condition improved after an operation to

correct a squint. Her parents were divorced early in her life, and at the age of 16 she decided to change her name from her father's, Stone, to her stepfather's, Rose. At Ealing Grammar School — where her rebellions against the head, Miss Bland, did not prevent her gaining a scholarship to read PPE at St Hilda's College, Oxford — she discovered philosophy for herself, by reading Plato's *Republic* and Pascal's *Pensées*.

Going up to Oxford in 1966 was at once an escape from domestic conflict — her mother, Lynn, had by this time separated from her stepfather — and an ordeal. *Love's Work* describes the agoraphobia which the dreaming spirals induced in her. Finding home unbearable, she was obliged to stay at Oxford in freezing digs during vacations, and was desperately lonely. But the greatest disappointment was the work she again rebelled against her tutor Jean Austin (widow of J. L. Austin, founder of the Oxford school of linguistic analysis), whose greeting to her undergraduates was: "Remember, girls, all the philosophers you will read are much more intelligent than you are." Only in her final year did she recover her enthusiasm for study, under Jean Floud of Nuffield, who introduced her to sociology.

Having graduated in 1970, Rose spent what she called her apprenticeship year at Columbia in New York and at the Free University in Berlin; at the New School of Social Research she was introduced to Hegel by Dieter Henrich and to the Frankfurt School by Jürgen Habermas. But it was in the Manhattan apartment of her bisexual lover, Jim Fessenden, that she first discovered Sixties culture. A quarter of a century later, after his death, Rose included in



*Love's Work* an affectionate account of his bohemian milieu. Her frank portrait of their mutual friend Camille Paglia caused the now famous feminist to threaten Rose with a libel writ — to little avail.

Based at St Antony's College, Oxford, Rose wrote her thesis under the Polish philosopher Leszek Kolakowski. As her subject she chose Theodor W. Adorno of the Frankfurt School, which dominated postwar German social theory; Kolakowski, then writing his debunking history of Marxism, mocked her gently: "I, too, wrote my thesis on a second-rate thinker." Having taught herself German by reading the notoriously dense works of Adorno, she felt a deep affinity with his thought, despite its cultural pessimism. Her thesis became her first book, *The Melancholy Science* (1978), which remains the best introduction to

Adorno. By then Rose was a lecturer in sociology at Sussex, where she was to remain for 15 years, and it looked as though her career was leading away from philosophy.

However, she attracted a number of philosophical refugees, disillusioned by logic-chopping, and acquired a well-deserved reputation as an inspiring postgraduate supervisor. Abandoning her worldly asceticism, she learnt to enjoy the good things in life: food, drink, music, art and sex. These Sussex years were highly productive. She enjoyed two happy relationships there, but never married; her children, she said, were her books.

In 1981 the first book in what she later called her "trilogy" appeared: *Hegel contra Sociology* argued that Hegel, whether Marxist or non-Marxist, had failed to assimilate the true significance of Hegel. The book was a landmark in Hegel studies, but the TLS criticised her idiom, which made "no concession whatever" to the general reader. Her neo-Hegelianism remained central: in 1984 she used it to devastating effect in *Dialectic of Nihilism: Post-Structuralism and Law*, a critique of the tide of post-structuralism then overwhelming the academic scene.

Rose was too uncompromising to be adept at academic politics, and she had to wait till 1989 for promotion. Aged 40, she became Professor of Social and Political Thought at Warwick, where she found true professional fulfilment, though the focus of her interests was increasingly theological. *The Broken Middle: Out of Our Ancient Society* (1992) was the second work in her trilogy, a visionary resolution of the political and metaphysical conflicts of the post-Communist world, with intima-

tions of her eventual leap of faith.

In 1993 she published one of her most valuable books, *Judaism and Modernity: Philosophical Essays*. Buber, Simone Weil, Benjamin, Rosenzweig, Derrida and a host of other Jewish thinkers were scrutinised in her bid to help Judaism and modernity to find a way out of their "crisis of self-comprehension".

That year Rose discovered that she had ovarian cancer. In spite of operations — including a colostomy — and chemotherapy, the disease spread inexorably until it reached her lungs. *Love's Work* (1995), the final work in her trilogy, was the product of her last two years. Into it she concentrated the essence of her life and thought. It dwells on sickness and mortality, on friendship and betrayal, on the most intimately universal, and the most sublimely universal. "This is not a love of suffering, but the work, the power of love, which may curse, but abides."

*Love's Work* had a rapturous reception from reviewers, such as Marina Warner and Julia Neuberger, and at a public lecture at the ICA, Rose found herself fêted by readers. To the end, she made close new friendships. In her last months, she worked on a collection of her essays, *Mourning and the Law*, which will appear next year, and a sequel to *Love's Work*, of which a publishable manuscript was completed.

On the day that she died, fellow academics had gathered for a conference at Warwick on "The Soul and the City": her name was on everybody's lips. Hours before her death, she was baptised by the Bishop of Coventry, the Right Rev Simon Barrington-Ward. She died reconciled to her family, to God and to her own cruel fate.

## JOHN BUNTING



John Bunting, publisher, died on November 29 aged 76. He was born on January 29, 1919.

THE publisher John Bunting was a bookman born and bred. His father, Daniel George Bunting, under the nom de plume of Daniel George, reviewed the latest books in the literary pages of national Sunday and London evening papers. He also compiled several miscellanies of those curious minutiae beloved of all readers of English literature. As a reader and literary adviser to the publishing house of Jonathan Cape he fostered distinguished authors. The family home in Mill Hill, where the young Bunting also went to school, was frequented by many who were in the mainstream of letters in the 1920s and 1930s.

The war took Bunting to India where he served as an officer in the 5th Punjab Regiment. While in East Bengal he became a friend of a notable group of Western scholars devoted to Hindu life and philosophy. One of these was Alain Daniélou, a Frenchman who became a professor at Benares University and the leading authority on north Indian music. Later, at Barrie & Jenkins, Bunting was to publish his *Northern Indian Music*, the standard work.

On demobilisation he drifted into publishing, working for a time with Frederick Muller. But a more exciting opportunity opened up in 1947 when he joined a new firm owned by the *New Statesman*, Turnstile Press (named after the weekly's then home in Great Turnstile).

Despite an illustrious board of directors, which included J. B. Priestley, Kingsley Martin and Leonard Woolf, the firm floundered in 1953. Nevertheless some notable books were published, often of an offbeat flavour. Much of this was thanks to Bunting who doubled up as sales director.

After a difficult period following Turnstile Press's col-

lapse as a book publisher — it continued to put out occasional pamphlets — Bunting became a director of James Barrie, a small firm acquired by Leopold Ullstein (a refugee from the famous German publishing house of Ullstein) which was to grow by further acquisitions. Rockcliffe Publishing brought in music and catering, Cresset Press history and biography, and Herbert Jenkins P. G. Wodehouse. The publishing house's name became Barrie & Jenkins and it went on, largely through Bunting's flair, to become a leader in the field of art and antiques, music and, of course, the works of the nonagenarian Wodehouse.

But a new era of publishing was in the offing. The habit of takeovers was just becoming fashionable and Barrie & Jenkins succumbed. The new commercial atmosphere was not one in which Bunting felt at home and in 1972 he virtually withdrew. After a none-too-happy spell with Heinemann, he set up as an antiquarian bookseller and provided a research service, which he continued to the end.

Bunting was married, first to Paulette Maynard, whose father Robert Maynard ran the Gregory Press, an eminent private press in Wales. His second wife, Melan Williams, who predeceased him, he met at the *New Statesman*, where for many years she worked as assistant to the literary editor. The first marriage ended in divorce and the second in separation.

Bunting was not an easy man and his character, allied to his love of "curiosities" frequently led him to worlds on the wrong side of the tracks. He had an almost Orwellian capacity for feeling at home in environments not superficially upright. In September 1991 he became a Brother of Sutton's Hospital in Charterhouse, where he lived until his death.

He is survived by a son and a stepson, who is the guitarist John Williams.

## JOHN HEAWOOD

John Heawood, actor, dancer and choreographer, died on December 11 aged 75. He was born on May 30, 1920.

JOHNNIE HEAWOOD was one of the musical theatre's outstanding performers. As a dancer, he had a style all his own. As an actor, he tackled everything from drag to drama, though his preference was for comedy. As a choreographer, he staged two long-running hit musicals in the 1950s, *Irma la Douce* in London, and *The Boy Friend*. The latter was produced in both London and on Broadway, where it made an overnight star of Julie Andrews.

Born in Canada, Heawood learnt to Charleston at the age of six — without any inkling of how useful it would one day prove — and came to Britain in 1940, at the age of 20, while serving in the Canadian Army. During the war he performed in army concert parties and, when peace came, he turned professional.

He had his first London success at the Globe Theatre in 1947 with Joyce Grenfell and Elisabeth Welch in *Tuppence Coloured*. This was a revue by Benjamin Britten.



Christopher Fry and John Benjamin, in which he not only danced but established himself as a comedian, appearing during scene changes as a pillboxed stagehand.

This was followed in 1949 by the Flanders and Swann revue *Oranges and Lemons*, and then by his film debut in 1952 with Hollywood's Ray Bolger

in *Where's Charley?*, the technicolour musical based on *Charley's Aunt*.

Heawood was appearing in Jack Hylton's revue, *London Laughs*, at the Adelphi Theatre when he was asked by Vida Hope to choreograph her production of Sandy Wilson's musical, *The Boy Friend*. The director Vida Hope suffered a

thing I'm slightly worried about," he told Hope, "is that there don't appear to be any jokes." Hope responded: "You get on with the dancing and leave the jokes to me."

Heawood's faithful recreation of the dance routines of the 1920s was a crucial factor in the staggering success of *The Boy Friend*. Within a month of its first London performance in April 1953, he was back on stage as a dancer in the London Coliseum production of *Clyde and Dolls* in which, as a larger than life Damon Runyon drunk, he stepped the show nightly with his grandiloquent delivery of the line "What vulgar jewellery!"

At the Players' Theatre in April 1954 he joined forces with Hattie Jacques in *The Players' Minstrels*, a production so successful that it inspired the launching of four years later, of BBC Television's *The Black and White Minstrel Show*.

The Broadway production of *The Boy Friend* in September 1954, which elevated John Andrews to stardom, was an embattled affair, with its creator Sandy Wilson locked in conflict with the producers, Cy Feuer and Ernest Martin. The director Vida Hope suffered a

nervous breakdown, but Heawood, according to his star dancer Ann Wakefield, "kept his head while all about him were losing theirs" and got on with the job.

In 1955 he was back in London to choreograph *June Whitfield* in the revue *From Here and There* at the Royal Court, returning to Broadway that autumn to stage Joyce Grenfell's *Request the Pleasure*. He reached the peak of his career as a choreographer in 1958 with his acclaimed staging of *Irma la Douce* at the Lyric Theatre, followed in 1959 by *The Crooked Mile* at the Cambridge.

In 1962 he returned to the West End as an actor and dancer, playing Robert Lemaitre, a devious Parisian lawyer, in *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, with Dora Bryan. He was a perennial favourite in the *Late Japs* Victorian music hall bills at the Players' Theatre, where he also joined Brian Blades as the most outrageous of Ugly Sisters in *Cinderella* in 1961, returning in 1966 to play Muley in *Whittington Junior* and his *Sensation Cat*.

On screen, he was seen in the film musical *Oliver!* (playing a Londoner, who sat in a tree and sang) and *The Slip-*

per and the Rose (as a dancer). In Brian Blades's musical anthology *A Century of Song*, in 1970, Heawood swept on stage resplendent in full drag, looking uncannily like Marlene Dietrich, and then proceeded to move his audience from laughter to tears with a mesmerising rendering of *They Didn't Believe Me*.

During the 1970s he performed a one-man show from the works of Cole Porter at the King's Head Theatre, where he also choreographed *Edith Piaf*. *Je vous aime*, in 1971, and directed *The French Have A Secret For It* in 1978.

His last appearances were in music hall at Karl Marx's favourite London pub, the Pindar of Wakefield, where, as a libidinous curate, he nightly dropped his spectacles down the ample bosom of a French governess, played by Violetta.

Chain-smoking and alcohol took their toll in his last years when, afflicted by arthritis and emphysema, he set his flat in Camden Town on fire. Yet such was the affection in which he was held throughout the profession that when a stroke necessitated his removal to a nursing home, a host of friends rallied to help him.

He was unmarried and is survived by his two sisters.

## SIR DAVID LIGHTBOWN

Sir David Lightbown, Conservative MP for Staffordshire South-East since 1983 and former Government Whip, died on December 12 aged 63. He was born on November 30, 1932.

AS A Government Whip during some of the most critical days of the Major administration Sir David Lightbown benefited from his appearance. He was a hulk of a man, weighing over 18st, whose presence was intimidating even before he began to address a potential rebel.

Whips tend to divide into two types. There are the suave, the reasoning and the understanding, while others believe in less subtle methods. Lightbown had no doubt where he belonged.

He was a Midlands industrialist who twice threatened to close factories when he



found himself confronted with union demands. He used the same quality of menace to provide the votes for ratification of the Maastricht treaty.

Despite his fervour he missed an important vote himself through over-enthusiasm. He was so engrossed,

hammering on the door of a Commons lavatory where a potential dissident — Sir Peter Fry — had taken refuge, that he did not hear the shouts announcing the division. On other occasions there is reasonable evidence that he reduced some potential rebels to tears.

He was a tough man outside the Commons. One constituent claimed that when she told him she was so distraught that she was going to throw herself from the window Lightbown replied: "If you're going to jump out of a window, jump out of your window at home, and not mine." His fellow MPs would have recognised the Lightbown touch.

On the other hand, he was considerate about the problems of his colleagues. Ready to help them financially and counsel them on more personal matters. There were those who believed that there was

more than an element of self-parody in his well-publicised tactics.

Lightbown was a typical Midlander, born and educated in Derby, who came to the Commons through the local government route. He entered Parliament in 1983 as a resolute right-winger, voting for the restoration of capital punishment, backing rugby tours of South Africa during the apartheid years and urging the BBC to accept advertising.

He entered the Whips' Office in 1986 and made his name by his efforts to contain Conservative rebellion against the poll tax. Later came Maastricht, with Lightbown handed the task of getting through the legislation, whatever the cost. Before that, he had already suffered one heart attack in the House in 1991.

He is survived by his wife Margaret Ann whom he married in 1960.

## ON THIS DAY

December 14, 1896

In September 1846, Elizabeth Barrett, the poet, slipped away from her home in London with her maid, Wilson, and at St Marylebone Church met the poet Robert Browning; there they were married. Fifty years later the marriage was commemorated at the church.

played Sullivan's "Royal Wedding March" as a voluntary. The service, which was the ordinary service of the Church, included Psalm 124, "My heart is inditing of a good matter"; the *Te Deum* and *Benedictus*, in E (Barnby), and the anthem "Who is like unto Thee, O God?" (Sullivan). The sermon, which was preceded by the hymn "Who are these like stars appearing?" was preached by the Dean of Canterbury.

The Dean said that the gathering had a twofold significance. It celebrated the anniversary of the death of one of the greatest poets of this age in a reign that had been prolific of noble

literature and it reminded them that in that church, 50 years ago, the poet was united in the bonds of holy wedlock to one of the truest and sweetest of our female singers. If that commemoration helped to bring home the lesson that might be learned from the example of two worthy lives, and from the inspiration of two gifted intellects, it would not be in vain.

For it had always seemed to him that the poets were the wisest as they were the most delightful of modern instructors. And he scarcely knew of another instance so striking — indeed, there was any other in human history — of two, who had enriched their century with songs that could not die owing their best of long-continued earthly happiness to their union in holy matrimony. In an age which had so many poets and writers, not indeed ungifted, but of the baser sort who had polluted the world with the realism of moral mud, which had sneered at marriage and endeavoured to paint the gate of hell with Paradise, who had ennobled the bonds of vagrant passions and the weight of chance desires as though freedom consisted in the slavery of our lower nature, it was a precious boon and antidote that these two poets of the supreme class thought it little shame, as did the ancient poet of the Canticles, to glorify a pure and holy love...

## PERSONAL COLUMN

## FOR SALE

MORNING SUITS  
DINNER SUITS  
EVENING SUITS

SURPLUS TO STOCK  
LIPMAN & SONS

West End Tel 0171 240 2310  
21 Chancery Lane, EC2A 3EX  
City Tel 0171 623 7721  
156 Finchchurch St, EC3

ENVELOPES, STATIONERY  
Crested and plain, 1000, 2500, 5000  
New 2400, 5000, 10000, 25000  
Tel 0181 244 4481

Midland China 12 place dinner set,  
Festoon, gold, silver, glass, etc.  
renewed, cleaned & repolished.  
Tel 0181 244 4481

THE TIMES - 1704-1998 other  
titles available. Also "Sunday"  
"Evening News" etc. Tel 0181 244 4481

YORK, FURNITURE, etc. Home  
decor & interior design. Tel 0181 244 4481

RENTALS

BATTERSEA / PARK SOUTH  
2 bed flat, 1/1, 1/1, 1/1, 1/1  
Tel 0171 244 4481

CHELSEA SW10 Luxury flat, 1/1, 1/1, 1/1  
Tel 0171 244 4481

Chelsea SW11 2 bed, 1/1, 1/1, 1/1  
Tel 0171 244 4481

Chelsea SW11 2 bed, 1/1, 1/1, 1/1  
Tel 0171 244 4481

Chelsea SW11 2 bed, 1/1, 1/1, 1/1  
Tel 0171 244 4481

Chelsea SW11 2 bed, 1/1, 1/1, 1/1  
Tel 0171 244 4481

Chelsea SW11 2 bed, 1/1, 1/1, 1/1  
Tel 0171 244 4481

Chelsea SW11 2 bed, 1/1, 1/1, 1/1  
Tel 0171 244 4481

Chelsea SW11 2 bed, 1/1, 1/1, 1/1  
Tel 0171 244 4481

## WANTED

ALL CROCODILE skins and  
leather. Tel 0171 244 4481

ALL MARINE animals, reptiles,  
birds, etc. Tel 0171 244 4481

JUNK COATS, etc. Tel 0171 244 4481

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

PORTUGAL, all areas  
Tel 0171 244 4481

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BACK ISSUES of newspapers,  
etc. Tel 0171 244 4481

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

## FLIGHTS

CONTRACTS on flights & hotels  
Tel 0171 244 4481

CONTRACTS on flights & hotels  
Tel 0171 244 4481

CONTRACTS on flights & hotels  
Tel 0171 244 4481

CONTRACTS on flights & hotels  
Tel 0171 244 4481

CONTRACTS on flights & hotels  
Tel 0171 244 4481

CONTRACTS on flights & hotels  
Tel 0171 244 4481

CONTRACTS on flights & hotels  
Tel 0171 244 4481

CONTRACTS on flights & hotels  
Tel 0171 244 4481

CONTRACTS on flights & hotels  
Tel 0171 244 4481

CONTRACTS on flights & hotels  
Tel 0171 244 4481

CONTRACTS on flights & hotels  
Tel 0171 244 4481

CONTRACTS on flights & hotels  
Tel 0171 244 4481

CONTRACTS on flights & hotels  
Tel 0171 244 4481

CONTRACTS on flights & hotels  
Tel 0171 244 4481

CONTRACTS on flights & hotels  
Tel 0171 244 4481

CONTRACTS on flights & hotels  
Tel 0171 244 4481

CONTRACTS on flights & hotels  
Tel 0171 244 4481

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PLEASE SUPPORT ANIMALS IN NEED

We provide a lifeline to over 3,000 animal  
casualties each year. Compassion  
and care alone will not feed  
them this winter.

Please help by sending a  
donation to:

Burrow Wildlife Sanctuary,  
(Dept TM), Church Lane,  
BURSTOW,  
Surrey, RH6 9TG

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS



## NEWS

## Lottery chief investigates Camelot

■ Peter Davis, the Director General of the National Lottery, is to launch an investigation into allegations made by Richard Branson about the tactics used by Camelot to win the contract to run the National Lottery.

Questions were laid in Parliament about a visit Mr Davis made to Australia: he has admitted taking five free flights in the US in a private jet owned by GTEch, an American company behind the successful Camelot bid for the lottery. Page 1

## Mortgage rates at 30-year low

■ Mortgage rates fell to their lowest level for almost 30 years after Kenneth Clarke cut interest rates by a quarter point to 6.5 per cent. The Chancellor acted to sustain the faltering economic recovery but the modesty of the cut disappointed business leaders and some Tory MPs. Pages 1, 21

## Wei jailed for 14 years

Wei Jingsheng, the Chinese dissident, was jailed for 14 years after a trial closed to the foreign press and diplomats. He was charged with attempting to overthrow the Government. Pages 1, 16

## Mental health attack

The wife of a doctor who was stabbed in his surgery criticised the Care in the Community policy after learning that his alleged attacker had been freed from a psychiatric hospital. Page 3

## Kasparov clincher

Garry Kasparov, the world chess champion, clinched victory over a computer capable of analysing more moves in a minute than he will play in a lifetime, avenging a defeat in 1994. Page 5

## Parents may sue

The parents of Nicholas Geldard, 10, who died of a brain haemorrhage as doctors shuttled him between four hospitals, may sue the health authorities. Page 6

## Community awards

The Prince of Wales presented the tenth annual Community Enterprise awards, sponsored by The Times and Touché Ross, at St James's Palace. Pages 7, 21, 22

## Sara Thornton retrial

Sara Thornton is to stand trial again for the murder of her violent and drunken husband after the Court of Appeal quashed her conviction. Pages 9, 20

## The voice of motor racing silenced

■ Murray Walker, the motor racing commentator with the hyperbolic, screeching style, may lose his microphone after 47 years. The BBC lost its contract to screen the Formula One grands prix as ITV scooped the rights to the next five seasons beginning in 1997 for a record £60 million — 10 times the present BBC contract price. Page 1

## Earldom at stake

A battle to establish the heir to the Earldom of Selkirk will be decided in the new year when a Government minister and his lawyer cousin go before the Court of Lord Lyon in Edinburgh. Page 12

## Connolly skirmish

The European Commission has lost an initial legal skirmish in its battle with Bernard Connolly, the British official with renegade views on monetary union who was suspended. Page 13

## Chirac not for turning

Echoing Margaret Thatcher, President Chirac told ministers to stand firm on welfare reform despite the continuing strikes and insisted: "There is no alternative." Page 14

## Russian poll appeal

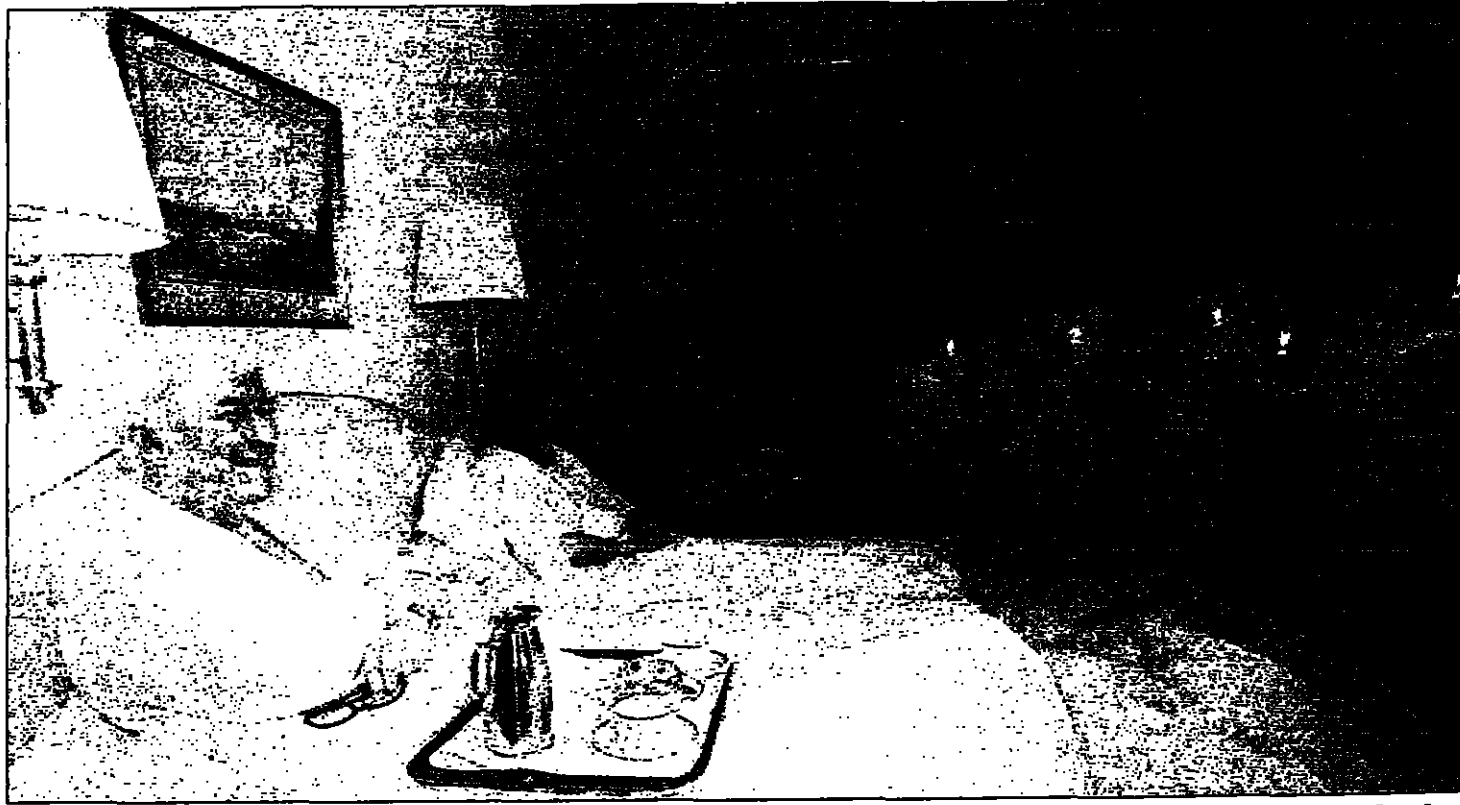
The Russian Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, made a final appeal to the electorate to back his reformist policies on Sunday. Page 15

## Quake-proof capital

A government report suggested building a new capital for Japan less susceptible to earthquakes. The Diet should be able to move there by 2010. Pages 16, 21

## Blinding light

Rooftop laser shows in Las Vegas have been banned by the US Food and Drug Administration after reports that they can temporarily blind pilots. Page 17



The poet Seamus Heaney and his wife, Marie, accept traditional Saint Lucia cakes, coffee and songs in their Stockholm hotel

## BUSINESS

**Jobs:** The Government announced a fall of 20,400 in unemployment to its lowest level for four years. Seasonally adjusted unemployment now stands at 2,244,500. Page 25

**Pearson:** Shares in Pearson fell 49p to 618p after a profits warning from the media group surprised the City. Page 25

**Economy:** High street sales bounced back in November after a very weak autumn but the overall trend remains sluggish, appearing to justify the decision to lower base rates. Page 25

**Markets:** The FT-SE 100 index rose 7.5 points to close at 3662.4. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 82.8 to 83.0 after a rise from \$1.5315 to \$1.5327 and from DM2.2184 to DM2.2221. Page 28

## SPORT

**Football:** On the evidence of England's 1-1 draw with Portugal, Paul Gascoigne has reached the point at which he is more likely to be hit by a lynchpin. Page 45

**Cricket:** Mark Ramprakash and Darren Gough were the only players ruled out as England kept their options open for the third Test against South Africa. Page 48

**Rugby union:** After their inequity against South Africa, England are expected to produce a much improved display against Western Samoa on Saturday. Page 46

**Racing:** Guy Watkins, chief executive of the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club, has been approached about taking over as chairman of the British Horseracing Board's industry committee. Page 43

## ARTS

**Porcine perfection:** The marvelous *Babe*, in which pigs talk, will be the hit of the holiday season; other new films this week include a thriller, *The Tie That Binds*, and a disappointing animated fantasy, *The Swan Princess*. Page 35

**Art for the people:** Littlewoods heir Peter Moores is establishing a £7 million "people's art gallery" at Compton Verney in the Midlands. Page 36

**Dumas staged:** *The Tower*, a preposterous but entertaining melodrama by Alexandre Dumas, has been staged with flair at the Almeida Theatre. Page 37

**Patti Pacific:** A new London production of *South Pacific* casts Patti Boulaye as an engaging Bloody Mary. Page 37

**Enemy territory:** Lizzie Noel, the Tory candidate selected to tackle Tony Blair in South Durham, talks to Anne McElvey. Page 19

**Dennis the Menace:** Family life can be a misery with a hyperactive child. Page 18

**Better deal:** British holidaymakers get cheaper package deals than other nationalities. Page 40

**Helping out:** Best ways for charities to raise funds and different methods of giving. Pages 30-31

**Indomitable Irish:** Roy Foster celebrates Ireland's astonishing impact on world literature: Brian Alderson on a life of Lewis Carroll; Marc Jordan on the mystery of ancient portraits. Page 38

In the great booze debate the media are tipsy on controversy and merry on indignation, having consumed hogheads of outrage. It is reassuring to hear a Minister speaking ordinary good sense — and depressing to hear the naive or cynical row whipped up about it. We should raise a glass to Stephen Dorrell. — Evening Standard

## TOMORROW

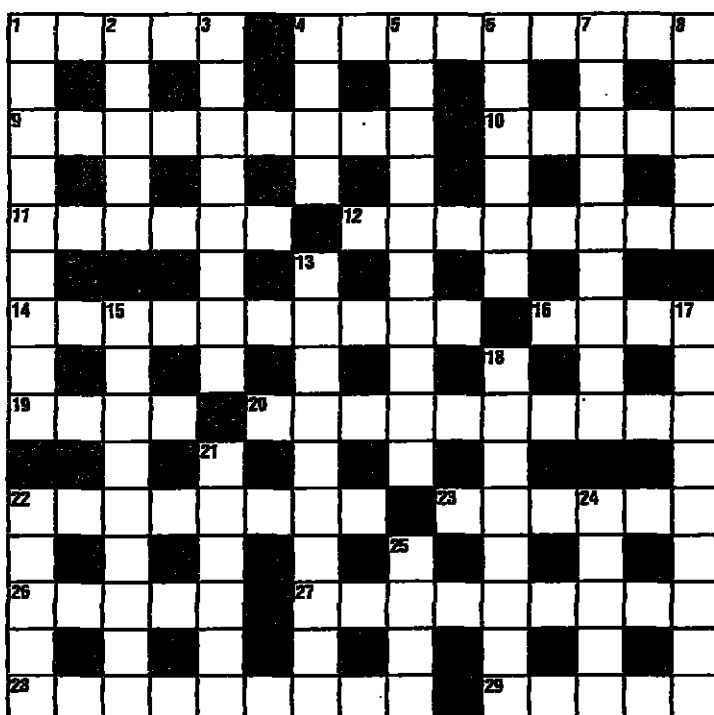
## IN THE TIMES

■ **JACK ON THE BOX**  
Valerie Grove meets Jack Dee (left), the comedian trying to bridge the gap between sharp and showbiz

■ **TRAVEL**  
Your chance to win a Caribbean cruise for two



## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,038



- ACROSS**
- Wish well, but give equivalent of beta minus (5).
  - I can still get excited enough to produce a little spark (9).
  - Collection of sweet drinks (4-5).
  - Infatuation with a Turkish officer (5).
  - Seal up sick note written by doctor (6).
  - Moved camp (8).
  - Terminate discussion of capital punishment (10).
  - Row either way in boat, if finer (4).
  - Stupid type given inside information (4).
  - One operating still as a pirate (10).
  - Unharmful, protected by Hadrian's Wall? (4-4).
  - Simple book put right — lines entered the wrong way round (6).
  - A contemptuous expression is silly (5).
- DOWN**
- Take over, given encouragement, with members being bent (3-6).
  - Being discriminating by gender, rejecting first son (5).
  - Unseemly haste to get into action (8).
  - Tail-end of organized workers' rising (4).
  - Imprecise notes in endless case (10).
  - One pays extra for this sort of truck (6).
  - Sort of shoe, maybe, for end of evening? (4-5).
  - Prize the opposite of peace in our time? (5).
  - Scoring method, of course, acceptable in extra match under way (6-4).
  - Is in better position to be inventive (9).
  - Warm glow here, if the girl is excited (9).
  - Violent, very masculine types held in check (8).
  - After repair, hang a fine sort of rug (6).
  - Point archbishop follows up in informal speech (5).
  - Fetch ship, around noon (5).
  - Eat up, girl (4).

## Solution to Puzzle No 20,037

CHANDLER ODDSON  
MERGE SHUTTERED  
I RECAPABLE  
CLAMPDOWN TABLE  
IT N I R O  
DRIPPED PRIMPS  
EVA NE C  
LEANER BEGNIA  
S O E R I R  
PRIOR TRAINBAND  
ESA V O N I  
COLUMBINE ORGAN  
ENTINE S S L A  
ENTINE S S L A

## TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
East Angles & Essex	702
Devon & Cornwall	703
Wales, Glamorgan, South Wales	704
North Wales, Merseyside, Lancashire	705
Yorkshire & the East of England	706
Northumbria, Cumbria, Lancashire	707
West Midlands	708
East Midlands	709
Central Scotland	710
North Scotland	711
London, SE England, Central S	712
Wales, Glamorgan, South Wales	713
North Wales, Merseyside, Lancashire	714
Yorkshire & the East of England	715
Northumbria, Cumbria, Lancashire	716
West Midlands	717
East Midlands	718
Central Scotland	719
North Scotland	720
London, SE England, Central S	721
Wales, Glamorgan, South Wales	722
North Wales, Merseyside, Lancashire	723
Yorkshire & the East of England	724
Northumbria, Cumbria, Lancashire	725
West Midlands	726
East Midlands	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code:

London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
East Angles & Essex	732
Devon & Cornwall	733
Wales, Glamorgan, South Wales	734
North Wales, Merseyside, Lancashire	735
Yorkshire & the East of England	736
Northumbria, Cumbria, Lancashire	737
West Midlands	738
East Midlands	739
Central Scotland	740
North Scotland	741
London, SE England, Central S	742
Wales, Glamorgan, South Wales	743
North Wales, Merseyside, Lancashire	744
Yorkshire & the East of England	745
Northumbria, Cumbria, Lancashire	746
West Midlands	747
East Midlands	748
Central Scotland	749
North Scotland	750
London, SE England, Central S	751
Wales, Glamorgan, South Wales	752
North Wales, Merseyside, Lancashire	753
Yorkshire & the East of England	754
Northumbria, Cumbria, Lancashire	755
West Midlands	756
East Midlands	757
Central Scotland	758
North Scotland	759
London, SE England, Central S	760
Wales, Glamorgan, South Wales	761
North Wales, Merseyside, Lancashire	762
Yorkshire & the East of England	763
Northumbria, Cumbria, Lancashire	764
West Midlands	765
East Midlands	766
Central Scotland	767
North Scotland	768
London, SE England, Central S	769
Wales, Glamorgan, South Wales	770
North Wales, Merseyside, Lancashire	771
Yorkshire & the East of England	772
Northumbria, Cumbria, Lancashire	773
West Midlands	774
East Midlands	775
Central Scotland	776
North Scotland	777
London, SE England, Central S	778
Wales, Glamorgan, South Wales	779
North Wales, Merseyside, Lancashire	780
Yorkshire & the East of England	781
Northumbria, Cumbria, Lancashire	782
West Midlands	783
East Midlands	784
Central Scotland	785
North Scotland	786
London, SE England, Central S	787
Wales, Glamorgan, South Wales	788
North Wales, Merseyside, Lancashire	789
Yorkshire & the East of England	790
Northumbria, Cumbria, Lancashire	791
West Midlands	792
East Midlands	793
Central Scotland	794
North Scotland	795
London, SE England, Central S	796
Wales, Glamorgan, South Wales	797
North Wales, Merseyside, Lancashire	798
Yorkshire & the East of England	799
Northumbria, Cumbria, Lancashire	800

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

## HIGHEST &amp; LOWEST

Yesterday's highest & lowest temperatures (°C):

London	14	8
Manchester	13	7
Birmingham	12	6
Cardiff	11	5
Edinburgh	10	4
Glasgow	9	3
Sheffield	8	2
Nottingham	7	1
Leeds	6	0
Belfast	5	-1
Newcastle	4	-2
Southampton	3	-3
Exeter	2	-4
Reading	1	-5
London	0	-6
Manchester	-1	-7
Birmingham	-2	-8
Cardiff	-3	-9
Edinburgh	-4	-10
Glasgow	-5	-11
Sheffield	-6	-12
Nottingham	-7	-13
Leeds	-8	-14
Belfast	-9	-15
Newcastle	-10	-16
Southampton	-11	-17
Exeter	-12	-18
Reading	-13	-19
London	-14	-20
Manchester	-15	-21
Birmingham	-16	-22
Cardiff	-17	-23
Edinburgh	-18	-24
Glasgow	-19	-25
Sheffield	-20	-26
Nottingham	-21	-27
Leeds	-22	-28
Belfast	-23	-29
Newcastle	-24	-30
Southampton	-25	-31
Exeter	-26	-32
Reading	-27	-33
London	-28	-34
Manchester	-29	-35
Birmingham	-30	-36
Cardiff	-31	-37
Edinburgh	-32	-38
Glasgow	-33	-39
Sheffield	-34	-40
Nottingham	-35	-41
Leeds	-36	-42
Belfast	-37	-43
Newcastle	-38	-44
Southampton	-39	-45
Exeter	-40	-46
Reading	-41	-47
London	-42	-48
Manchester	-43	-49
Birmingham	-44	-50
Cardiff	-45	-51
Edinburgh	-46	-52
Glasgow	-47	-53
Sheffield	-48	-54
Nottingham	-49	-55
Leeds	-50	-56
Belfast	-51	-57
Newcastle	-52	-58
Southampton	-53	-59
Exeter	-54	-60
Reading	-55	-61
London	-56	-62
Manchester	-57	-63
Birmingham	-58	-64
Cardiff	-59	-65
Edinburgh	-60	-66
Glasgow	-61	-67
Sheffield	-62	-68
Nottingham	-63	-69
Leeds	-64	-70
Belfast	-65	-71
Newcastle	-66	-72
Southampton	-67	-73
Exeter	-68	-74
Reading	-69	-75
London	-70	-76
Manchester	-71	-77
Birmingham	-72	-78
Cardiff	-73	-79
Edinburgh	-74	-80
Glasgow	-75	-81
Sheffield	-76	-82
Nottingham	-77	-83
Leeds	-78	-84
Belfast	-79	-85
Newcastle	-80	-86
Southampton	-81	-87
Exeter	-82	-88
Reading	-83	-89
London	-84	-90
Manchester	-85	-91
Birmingham	-86	-92
Cardiff	-87	-93
Edinburgh	-88	-94
Glasgow	-89	-95
Sheffield	-90	-96
Nottingham	-91	-97
Leeds	-92	-98
Belfast	-93	-99
Newcastle	-94	-100
Southampton	-95	-101
Exeter	-96	-102
Reading	-97	-103
London	-98	-104
Manchester	-99	-105
Birmingham	-100	-106
Cardiff	-101	-107
Edinburgh	-102	-108
Glasgow	-103	-109
Sheffield	-104	-110
Nottingham	-105	-111
Leeds	-106	-112
Belfast	-107	-113
Newcastle	-108	-114
Southampton	-109	-115
Exeter	-110	-116
Reading	-111	-117
London	-112	-118
Manchester	-113	-119
Birmingham	-114	-120
Cardiff	-115	-121
Edinburgh	-116	-122
Glasgow	-117	-123
Sheffield	-118	-124
Nottingham	-119	-125
Leeds	-120	-126
Belfast	-121	-127
Newcastle	-122	-128
Southampton	-123	-129
Exeter	-124	-130
Reading	-125	-131
London	-126	-132
Manchester	-127	-133
Birmingham	-128	-134
Cardiff	-129	-135
Edinburgh	-130	-136
Glasgow	-131	-137



السؤال الأول



**ANATOLE KALETSKY 29**  
More interest rate cuts will follow in the near future



**BOOKS 38,39**  
The faces that endured for two thousand years



**SPORT 43-48**  
Has Gascoigne reached point of no return?

**SIR FREDDIE RELAUNCHES US FLIGHTS**  
Travel 40, 41

# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook THURSDAY DECEMBER 14 1995

## Home loan rate at 30-year low

**By Janet Bush and Robert Miller**

THE cost of a home loan fell to the lowest level in nearly 30 years as mortgage lenders matched yesterday's quarter-point cut in base lending rates.

Homeowners can look now forward to the new year when they will see falls in their monthly repayments in both January and February.

The double bonus comes about because the Halifax Building Society had already moved to cut its lending rate by 1/4 point two weeks ago, a move followed by other lenders. Yesterday, Britain's biggest lender lowered its standard variable mortgage rate again to 7.49 per cent, with immediate effect for new borrowers and from February 1 for existing borrowers.

The Halifax said the latest move would cut the cost of a £30,000 repayment loan in February by £4 a month to £202.44 while a £50,000 loan would fall by £7.28 to £345.40 a month. Savings for homeowners from the two cuts mean that after February monthly outgoings on a £50,000 loan will have fallen by nearly £15 compared to present levels.

Charles Toner, managing director of Abbey National, which cut its variable rate to 7.54 per cent for loans up to £59,999, said: "Abbey National's mortgage interest rates are now at their lowest levels since the late 1960s. This will be a welcome Christmas present for new and existing mortgage customers and is good news for the housing market."

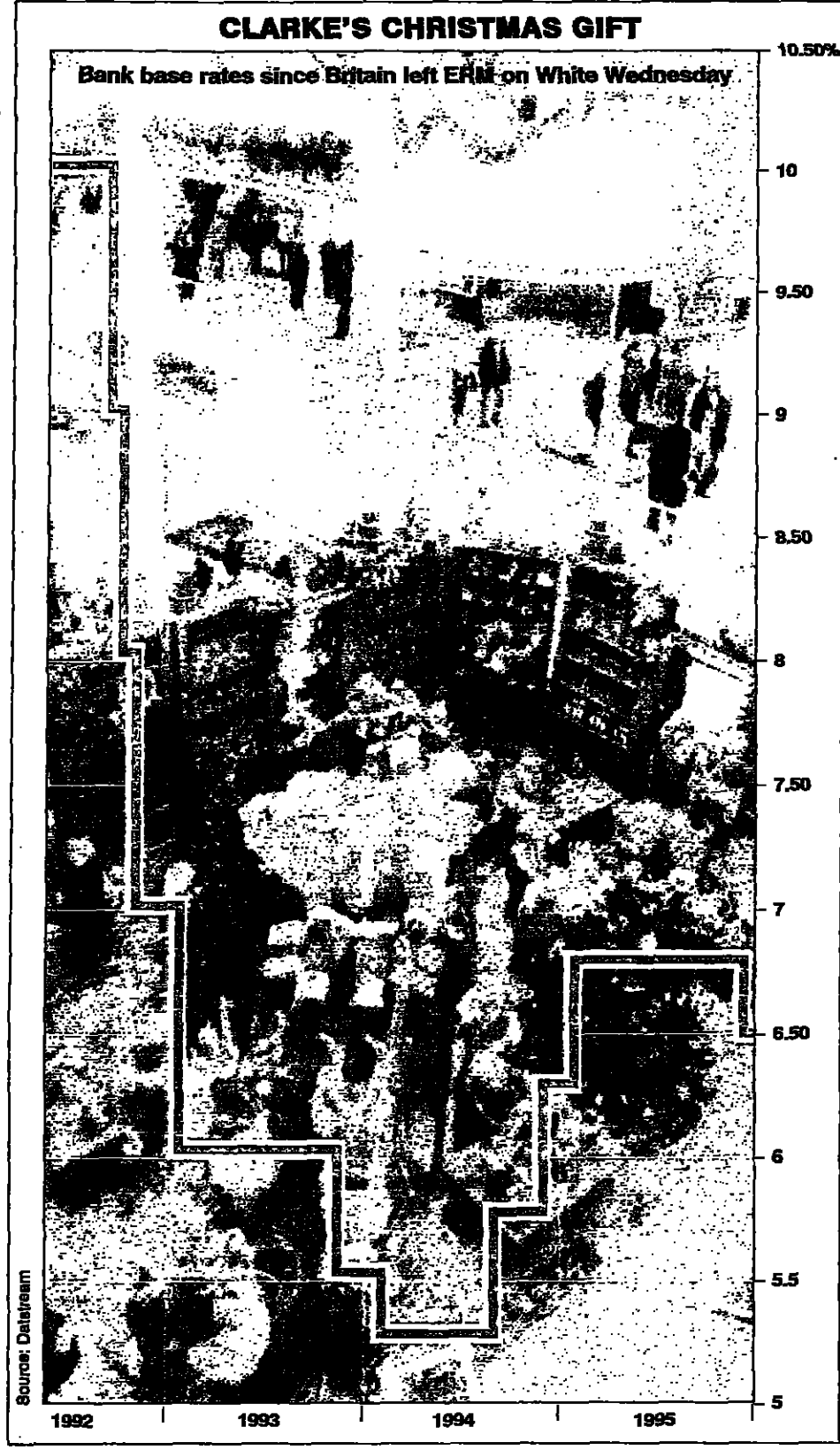
Other lenders to announce rate cuts included National & Provincial Building Society to 7.54 per cent, Portman to 7.49 per cent and Northern Rock to 7.44 per cent, its lowest level since 1967.

The City and business clearly believes that yesterday's small cut in base rates is only the first of a series of downward movements in rates. Forecasts suggest that the economy was very weak in the final quarter of this year and that this will carry through into the spring, prompting more action by the Government. Virtually every industrial and business body argued yesterday that, while welcome, the 1/4 point cut will not be enough to revive the economy. The Building Employers Confederation said that the cut will have little impact on the construction industry or the housing market. The Institute of Directors said it would like to see the Chancellor do more and the Confederation of British Industry said that, if there are indications of a further slowdown over the next couple of months and inflation remains subdued, it would recommend another cut.

The three wise men currently on the Treasury's forecasting panel who earlier this week urged the Chancellor to cut rates believe there will be further cuts. Professor Patrick Minford, of the University of Liverpool, said yesterday's cut was inadequate. But Gavyn Davies, of Goldman Sachs International, and Professor Tim Congdon, of Lombard Street Research, both argued that the move was sensible. Mr Davies said that it was much better for the Chancellor to proceed at the pace desired by the Governor of the Bank of England.

After an initial rally, shares and gilts quickly settled, with traders, disappointed by the minimal cut in base rates, focused their attention on today's meeting of the Bundesbank's policy-making council and the meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee in the US next week, both of which may yield interest rate cuts.

The FT-SE index of 100 leading British shares ended 7.5 points higher at 3,662.4 while gilts saw most of their early gains erased, partly because of another robust set of data from America which may make a US rate cut less likely.



## Unemployment down for 27th month in a row

**By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor**

UNEMPLOYMENT has fallen to a four-year low, leading the Government to claim that its policies are clearly delivering economic growth.

The latest fall in the seasonally adjusted number of people out of work and claiming benefit came as the Government revised last month's surprise increase in unemployment so that claimant unemployment has now been falling for 27 months in succession.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, said the 20,400 fall in the number of people out of work was "very good news". The fall in unemployment in November was four times what City forecasts had been predicting, with seasonally adjusted unemployment dropping to 2,344,500 — down 20,400 on the revised figure for October.

Last month, the Government said unemployment had risen by 200, but this has been revised to a fall of 400, to take October's revised level to 2,264,900.

The revision means that the three-month trend is now running at a monthly fall of about 16,000. The November fall, which takes the unemployment rate down to 8 per cent, means seasonally adjusted unemployment has now fallen in an unbroken series since August 1993. Claimant unemployment fell in every region for both men and women.

The figure for unadjusted unemployment fell by 16,200 to 2,196,136, and Eric Forth, Education and Employment Minister, welcomed the fall as "further evidence that Britain's flexible and deregulated labour market, tight control of public spending and low taxes are delivering economic growth and the jobs that go with it."

But the fall in unemployment coincided with a drop in employment, with further figures from the Central Statistical Office showing that the total workforce in employment decreased 22,000 to 25.7 million.

Officials pointed out that employment was still up by 81,000 year-on-year, and ministers said that full details published yesterday from the quarterly Labour Force Survey showed that the economic recovery had put half a million more people back into work. The Government is expected next month to publish its long-awaited report on how it reconciles these two differing sets of employment figures.

Labour and the trade unions seized on the fall in employment as evidence that the recovery was petering out, and the TUC also pointed out that the 20,400 fall in claimant unemployment was less than half the fall recorded for the same month last year, when it dropped by 44,200.

Michael Meacher, Shadow Employment Secretary, said: "People are leaving the unemployment count not because they have found jobs — even the temporary and part-time work that is such a feature of our insecure economy — but because they have dropped out of the labour market altogether."

John Monks, TUC General Secretary, said: "Any improvement in the labour market recovery as we enter the New Year could now prove to be short lived unless the Government takes immediate action to offset the job-destroying measures contained in last month's Budget."

### BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	3662.4	(+7.5)
Yield	3.94%	
FT-SE All share	1785.58	(+3.40)
Nikkei	19263.48	(-29.29)
New York	5201.56	(+28.74)*
S&P Composite	620.96	(+2.18)*
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	111 1/8	(111 1/8)
Yield	6.06%	(6.06%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-month Interbank	6 1/4%	(6 1/4%)
Libra loan 6m	111 1/8	(110 3/4)
Future (Dec)	111 1/8	(110 3/4)
STERLING		
New York	1.5323*	(1.5335)
London	1.5285	(1.5281)
S	5.0285*	(4.9972)
FF	7.7000	(7.5540)
Sfr	1.2045	(1.1797)
Yen	155.87	(156.70)
£ Index	83.0	(82.8)
DOLLAR		
London	1.4519*	(1.4473)
DM	1.772*	(1.763)
Sfr	101.72*	(101.78)
Yen	94.4	(94.4)
Tokyo close Yen	161.65	
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Feb)	\$17.40	(\$17.35)
GOLD		
London close	\$387.85	(\$388.40)

\* denotes midday trading price

## Shop sales look up but trend is still fragile

**By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT**

HIGH STREET sales bounced back in November after a very weak performance during the autumn, but the overall trend remains sluggish, appearing to justify the decision yesterday to lower base rates.

Volumes rose 0.6 per cent last month and October's originally reported fall of 0.2 per cent was revised to a marginal gain of 0.1 per cent. Annual growth in sales increased to 1.1 per cent from 0.3 per cent in October, still signalling how weak sales have been.

Two of the strongest rises in November were in sales of clothing and footwear and household goods, which were up 2.7 per cent and 1.2 per cent compared with October. Michael Saunders of Salomon Brothers said that sales of clothing and footwear were depressed in October, presumably because winter clothing sales were hit by the unusually warm weather, and that colder weather last month may have prompted a recovery.

Despite the more healthy overall figure, retail sales trends are fragile. In the last three months, sales volumes rose only 0.1 per cent compared with the previous three months, and 0.4 per cent compared with a year ago. It was also clear that pricing remains extremely competitive and bodes well for today's retail prices figures. The retail sales deflator dropped to 3.1 per cent year on year compared with 3.4 per cent in October, with a sharp fall in prices of household goods.

City economists said yesterday that retail sales ought to pick up a little in coming months as rebates on electricity bills from the sale of the National Grid are paid out and building society mergers yield bonuses. However, there was still scepticism that consumer spending will be as strong as the Chancellor forecast last month without more cuts in base rates in the spring.

John Randall, managing director at MFI, the UK's largest retailer and manufacturer of kitchen and bedroom furniture, welcomed the base rate cut as "better than a poke in the eye with a bent stick". The firm's fortunes are tied to the state of consumer confidence and the housing market.

## Pearson shares fall on warning

**By ERIC REGULY**

SHARES of Pearson plummeted yesterday after it announced that higher-than-expected reorganisation costs and sluggish trading at some of its business units, including Madame Tussauds and Penguin books, would damage earnings growth this year.

The shares finished at 61 1/2p, down 49p or 7.3 per cent. Trading volume was high at 6.8 million.

The profits warning came as a surprise to the City. Analysts, who attended a Pearson meeting expecting to learn about new board appointments, were told that adjusted earnings per share in the current financial year would be "modestly below" the low end of their estimates, which ranged from 29.3p a share to 34.1p. Earnings forecasts were quickly downgraded.

Henderson Crosthwaite, the investment firm, now expects Pearson to report full-year pre-tax profits of £237 million, or 27.5p, against its previous forecast of £279 million, or 32.7p. Other firms reduced their profits forecast to as low as £235 million. Pearson said a rise in reorganisation costs

from £12 million to £45 million are behind the lower earnings. About half of the increase is related to the costs of restructuring back-office functions, such as combining the information technology sections of publishing companies.

The remainder relates to smaller reorganisations, such as closing down offices at Grundy Worldwide, the TV programmes maker acquired in May.

Pearson also said that trading results were mixed. Tussauds, it said, "has made little advance over 1994" while Penguin has had a "disappointing year" because of the trend to lower-margin retail pricing in Britain.

Separately, the company announced that John Makinson, managing director of the Financial Times, will join the board in April, replacing James Joll as finance director. David Bell, chief executive of the Financial Times, and Greg Dyke, chief executive of Pearson Television, will also join the board.

## 'Secret hold' in Britain's boardrooms

**By MARIANNE CURPHEY**

FINANCIAL institutions have such sway with the companies in which they invest that they secretly influence directors' appointments, pay, perks and contracts, new research claimed yesterday.

This behind-the-scenes power goes beyond the approach recommended by the Cadbury committee, which called on institutional investors to play a more important role in the ethics of running a company and the responsibilities to shareholders, according to John Holland, professor of International Banking and Finance at Glasgow University.

He conducted interviews among 27 fund directors and managers from the top 35 UK equity investing financial institutions, and found institutions attempted to use their close working relationship with companies to intervene regularly on issues of corporate governance and financial performance.

## Ofwat demands separate quotes

**By ALASDAIR MURRAY**

IAN BYATT, the Director-General of Water Services (Ofwat), yesterday demanded separate Stock Exchange listings for all regulated water businesses after takeovers or mergers.

The move is likely to affect the current North West Water/Norweb and Welsh Water/Swalec deals. It could also deter any conglomerates considering making a bid for a water company and prevent the water sector being subject to the wholesale takeovers that have been seen among regional electricity companies.

Mr Byatt, who was speaking at the Adam Smith Institute in London, said he wanted to see separate listings to ensure that sufficient transparency was maintained to allow effective regulation. Listing a company's shares on the Stock Exchange involves making at least 25 per cent of the company's shares available for trading.

Ofwat has also been concerned that the loss of three water companies from the Stock Exchange would harm its ability to make recommendations to the market.

POUR MONSIEUR

CHANEL

ELEGANCE IS TIMELESS

CHANEL



# Investors get boost from East Midlands

By Christine Buckley

EAST MIDLANDS Electricity, one of the last three regional electricity companies not to have been bid for, yesterday committed £238 million to a shareholder giveaway.

The company, which wiped out its debt and gathered £13.5 million in cash after strong cash generation fuelled by a tightening of operational costs over its last half year, is to pay a special dividend of £1.20 per share. This is the highest payout offered by an electricity company except for that of Northern Electric, which earlier this year announced a large package of returns in an effort to shield it from bidders. Once the special dividend is paid in March, the gearing of East Midlands, which was the first of the electricity companies to issue a special dividend with its 85p payout last year, will climb to about 80 per cent.

East Midlands — the sub-

ject of repeated bid speculation, especially concerning US utility companies thought to still be on the prowl — would not comment on any potential bid. Norman Askew, chief executive, insisted that the business — in a new tripartite format that is being developed — would be in a strong position to stay independent after the energy market opens to full competition in 1998.

By March, East Midlands intends to have restructured itself as three separate businesses handling distribution; metering; and supply of both electricity and gas. Mr Askew, who denies that such a measure heralds full demerger or a sale of parts of the company, said: "With the various roles separated out, there will be far more transparency and it will be easier to attract costs."

There will be further job cuts in the company, which has been disposing of non-core businesses. Over the past three years, the payroll has shrunk from 8,500 to 4,680, with those working directly for the electricity business falling from 5,400 to 3,885.

East Midlands, which has a joint gas venture with Mobil and which will take part in the experimental opening of gas to competition in the South West next spring, has no plans for major investment.

Pre-tax profits for the half to September 30 rose 12.4 per cent to £96.7 million with some benefits feeding through from recent disposals. The interim dividend, due on February 2, rises by 7 per cent to 9.2p. Mr Askew rejected some City criticism that the ordinary dividend was too modest. He said: "This sector is like none I've ever worked in before. People make promises on dividends four or five years ahead. We've never done that nor intend to."

## TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Boys	Bank	Sells
Australia S	2.15	1.88		
Austria Sch	18.03	15.13		
Belgium Fr	48.03	44.23		
Canada S	2.213	2.023		
Cyprus Cyp	0.746	0.681		
Denmark Kr	9.21	8.41		
Finland Mk	7.24	6.58		
France Fr	8.08	7.43		
Germany Dm	2.37	2.16		
Greece Dr	368.00	363.00		
Hong Kong S	12.48	11.48		
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94		
Israel Shk	5.100	4.510		
Italy Lit	2553.00	2385.00		
Japan Yen	169.00	163.00		
Malta	0.592	0.537		
Netherlands Gld	2.527	2.407		
New Zealand S	2.52	2.30		
Norway Kr	10.38	9.58		
Portugal Esc	244.00	225.50		
S Africa Rd	1.95	1.82		
Spain Ptas	195.50	182.50		
Sweden Kr	10.94	10.14		
Switzerland Fr	1.94	1.76		
Turkey Lira	1.827	82018.0		
USA S	1.627	1.497		

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Henry Schuldenfrei, chief executive, forecasts a good second half for Worthington

## Worthington on the button

WORTHINGTON Group, the supplier of buttons and shoulder pads, said that although market conditions remain erratic the company expects to achieve satisfactory financial results in the second half.

In the six months to September the company, whose chief executive is Henry Schuldenfrei, increased prof-

its to £909,000 before tax from £811,000, a 12 per cent rise. Turnover edged forward to £12.8 million from £12.3 million.

Mr Schuldenfrei said: "The long summer and the late arrival of colder weather has affected retail sales and thus repeat orders expected from many outwear garment manufacturers have been de-

layed." Long-term contracts recently signed for 1996 were showing the benefits of improved product sourcing.

Earnings rose to 257p a share from 238p. The company recommends an interim dividend of 0.8p a share, due April 4, rising from 0.7p previously.

Worthington shares fell 4p to 75p.

## Decision due on German rate cut

FROM PETER BILD IN BONN

THE Bundesbank's central council meets today to consider whether to alter German interest rates and to set out a new target for money supply.

Most Bundesbank watchers consider a cut in the discount and Lombard rates "still unlikely but not impossible". A more significant indicator of the Bank's monetary stance will come with the announcement of its M3 growth target for next year.

Expectations are rising, especially among non-German traders, that the Bundesbank will lift its M3 target range one point to 5-7 per cent while dropping 0.5 percentage points off the 3.5 per cent discount and 5.5 per cent Lombard rates.

But many Frankfurt watchers believe the Bundesbank will continue to play the game of keeping expectations of rate cuts alive for a few weeks more. The Bundesbank likes teasing the market, which helps it to sell government bonds to finance the public sector deficit without raising inflationary expectations.

The bank acknowledges that the economy is lagging well behind expectations. Its latest figures show zero economic growth in the third quarter over the second, with no visible improvement in the final months of this year. But it argues that adjusting short-term lending rates does nothing for an economy driven by capital market costs that are only loosely linked to money market action.

Peter Pietsch, Commerzbank chief economist, said: "Interest rates are not the reason for weak investment in Germany. It's high wages and other employment costs that cause German firms to invest abroad rather than at home." Herr Pietsch is more confident than other economists that the Bundesbank will keep its M3 growth target unchanged at 4-6 per cent. He believes a higher M3 target would signal the laxity that the Bundesbank is most anxious to avoid.

## Supermarket war slows Kwik Save

KWIK SAVE, the discount food retailer, yesterday revealed it has not escaped unscathed from the resurgence of the supermarket price war. Speaking at the company's annual meeting, Simon Keswick, chairman, told shareholders that the group's sales and margins were under pressure. The news prompted analysts to cut their full-year profits forecasts and the shares fell 39p to 519p — a new low for the year.

Some analysts had hoped the discount chain would not be affected by the price war now raging between the leading supermarket groups. Key fresh produce prices, such as bananas, have fallen sharply as rival food retailers battle to woo customers. But while Kwik Save does not compete in the fresh produce area, it appears to have lost customers. Mr Keswick told shareholders that while total sales were 10 per cent up in the first 15 weeks of the year, growth had slowed because of further intensification of pricing activity.

## Chairman to make £2.5m

ALGY CLUFF, chairman of Cluff Resources, the African gold miner, will make more than £2.5 million when his company is taken over by Ashanti Goldfields. Some £735,000 will come from options, some issued at only 25p. Ashanti is offering cash of 105p a share. Mr Cluff is urging Cluff shareholders to hold on to the last moment, pending rumoured corporate moves in the gold market. Reports have suggested that the giant Anglo American Corporation may be planning to take control of Ashanti.

## Appeal over part-timers

THE TUC is to appeal against the rejection last week by the industrial tribunal of claims by 60,000 part-time workers to backdate pension benefits. The appeal will be heard by the Employment Appeal Tribunal in London, starting March 11. The TUC will spend up to £30,000 co-ordinating up to 24 test cases. The European Court of Justice ruled last year that part-timers had the right to join their employer's pension scheme if they could prove indirect discrimination. Workers can also backdate benefits, but the court set no limits for backdating.

## Widney 39% ahead

WIDNEY, the mechanical and electronic engineering company, announced a 39 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £1.65 million (£1.12 million) for the year to September 30. The company also proposed moving away from its "penny share" image with the conversion of every 12.5 old shares into one new share. Earnings per share rose by 12.3 per cent, to 0.82p (0.73p), but growth was limited by a tax charge of £248,000. A final dividend of 0.2p will be paid to shareholders on April 8, making a total dividend for the year of 0.275p (0.2p).

## Birkby raises dividend

BIRKBY, the Huddersfield retail and commercial property company, announced an increase in its interim dividend yesterday, despite a decline in profits. Pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30 fell 7.3 per cent to £3.8 million (£4.1 million). But the interim dividend rose to 2.2p (2.0p), payable to shareholders on April 3. Earnings per share slipped to 6.3p from 8.2p for the same period last year. Despite short-term uncertainty, Bill Cran, chief executive, was confident about the medium to long-term outlook.

## Granada mines Gold

GRANADA, the ITV company, confirmed yesterday that it had formed a joint venture with BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster in which it has a 10.8 per cent stake, to launch eight Sky channels next year. They will include Granada Gold, which will draw from the company's extensive programming library, a health and beauty channel, a men and motoring channel and talks shows. Granada will initially have 20 per cent of the venture; BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times, will have 80 per cent.

## Apollo profits rocket

APOLLO METALS, the aluminium processing and distribution company, announced a leap in pre-tax profits to £3.17 million (£291,000) for the year to September 30. Profits were boosted by two acquisitions in late 1994 and an increase in profitability. Earnings per share rose to 7.7p (0.0p). A final dividend of 2.6p, to be paid on February 22, takes the total dividend to 3.9p compared to 3.6p the year before. Albert Hargreaves, chairman, predicted continued growth, and the shares closed up 3p at 111p.

## Bank of Scotland grows

THE Bank of Scotland has set up its own merchant bank subsidiary in Australia. BOS International is backed by an A\$750 million (£131 million) capital markets facility and will be providing corporate and infrastructure lending to the Australian market. The creation of a merchant bank marks the latest in a series of Antipodean ventures for the Bank of Scotland, which earlier this year bought Bankwest, Western Australia's biggest bank, for A\$900 million and NWS Bank, which is now called Capital Finance.

## Cater Allen acquisition

CATER ALLEN, the financial services group, is to spend £7.25 million on acquiring City Deal, a bought share dealing and settlement company, from Deal, set up in 1993 to rival ShareLink, specialises in private clients and accounts for 5 per cent of the daily equity trades on the London Stock Exchange. Audited pre-tax profits last year were £246,000. The deal needs the approval of Sherwood's shareholders, who will be called to an extraordinary meeting on December 29.

## David S Smith shows 47% rise

By Alasdair Murray

DAVID S SMITH, the paper and packaging company, overcame difficult market conditions to show a 47.5 per cent rise in half-year profits to £59.6 million.

Peter Williams, chairman, was cautious about the future, though he added current trading was going well. The paper and packaging sector has been hit by a series of profit warnings in recent months after increases in raw material prices and a fall in demand through destocking.

Turnover rose 29 per cent to £613 million and margins from 9.6 to 10.8 per cent. The interim dividend, due on March 11, is up 15.3 per cent at 2.45p. Turnover in the packaging and paper division rose 37 per cent to £438 million and profits from £36 million to £54 million on price rises.

Packaging suffered from a fall in volumes because of higher prices and the Kaysersberg subsidiary suffered from a downturn in the French economy. But KZWP,

the newly acquired Polish subsidiary, performed well.

Turnover in office products rose 12 per cent to £175 million and profits increased 12 per cent to £10.5 million. The company said it would exercise its option to purchase 65 per cent of Toscana Ondulati Spa, an Italian packager, by the year end.

Tempus, page 28



Williams: cautious

## Brockbank links with reinsurer

BROCKBANK, one of the biggest and most profitable managing agencies at Lloyd's of London, has ended a three-year search for a strategic partner with the sale of 51 per cent of its equity to a major reinsurance company for £50 million (Sarah Bagnall writes).

However, Mid Ocean, the Bermuda-based reinsurance group, can unwind the deal if certain events occur. These relate principally to Lloyd's attempt to restructure and recapitalise itself. Conversely, if Lloyd's future is secured, Mid Ocean is required to acquire the remaining 49 per cent of Brockbank for a sum based on independent valuation.

Brockbank's shares were suspended at 340p yesterday, valuing it at £28.3 million.

The new funds give Brockbank a constant source of capital when the flow of funds from names is waning, and ends reliance on attracting fresh funds from names on an annual basis. Brockbank's entire business is being transferred into the enlarged group.

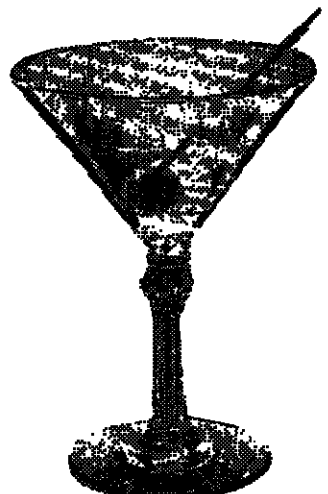
## Forte seeks inquiry into cost dispute

FORTE has asked the Takeover Panel to investigate Granada's alleged claims that it would cut Forte's annual operating expenses by £100 million if its £3.3 billion bid for the company succeeds (Eric Reguly writes).

Granada would not comment on the £100 million figure, contained in a Sunday newspaper report, but said that it stands by its charge that Forte's businesses are underperforming. A spokeswoman called Forte's appeal to the Takeover Panel "mischievous". Granada itself has complained to the panel about the scale of Forte's disposals during the bid period.

Sir Rocco Forte, chairman of Forte, said that Granada would have to fire 4,000 to 5,000 employees, or more than 10 per cent of the workforce, to cut costs by so much. That would "virtually destroy" the company, he said.

Sir Rocco said that Granada's intention to raise prices at the Travelodge budget hotels would be bad for business.



LESS  
OF A  
BEATING  
WITH OUR  
CLUB

The Admiral's Club at Heathrow provides a welcome break for our First and Business Class passengers. Here, you can unwind with some of our special facilities, such as showers, massage chairs, complimentary refreshments and drinks. Or you can keep things rolling at the Club's business centre, which offers meeting facilities, fax and free local calls — all in the comfort of your own private lounge. Fly with us in comfort on our 22 non-stop flights to the Arabian Gulf every week, enjoying a host of special services, and discover our own special style of traditional hospitality. Gulf Air. Come aboard for a world of difference.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ROUTES AND SERVICES, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL TRAVEL AGENT OR GULF AIR LONDON RESERVATIONS 0171 408 1717, SALES 0171 411 4440, MANCHESTER RESERVATIONS 0900 262972/0800 269171/4370100.



□ Another profit warning goes wrong □ Barometer of the economy □ Institutions in the boardroom

## Posh Pearson punished

PEARSON cannot afford to give fund managers a stick to beat it with. Its shares have kept up with the average this year and outperformed longer term. Yet critics of the *Financial Times*, Alton Towers and Lazard group were not likely to tolerate lapses.

Pearson appears socially superior, intellectually superior and even morally superior. The irreverent City Neros of the 1990s cordially loathe it for all three.

They refuse to see Pearson as a dynamic 21st century media stock. Instead, they cling to the image of a landed family holding company with pretensions, that tolerates excessive costs and throws money haphazardly after bright ideas, only some of which fly.

Yesterday, the young Neros had a chance to exercise their thumbs. They were turned down swiftly and in unison. Thus a relatively modest profit warning — provisions to cut overheads will be about £30 million worse than expected — knocked 7 per cent off the share price and nearly £300 million of the group's stock market value.

Perhaps analysts were secretly disappointed that Granada bid for Forte instead of Pearson, which is still rather a mouthful after the fall at £3.4 billion.

Pearson argues that the extra provisions will help accelerate its transformation into an international media group, complete with global television interests ranging from *This is Your Life* to *Neighbours*. The next stage of this transformation will be funded by the sale of the stake in BSkyB, the newcomer that is already well above Pearson in the market rankings. But the City is not sure it trusts management to reinvest this money.

Unlike Reed, Pearson has been refocusing intermittently and without great enthusiasm to upset the many internal vested interests. Forget merchant banking, Madame Tussaud's, Alton Towers *et al* are components of a great leisure business. But do they have a place in a focused international media group? Westminster Press, the UK provincial newspaper chain, is mainstream media but is it a big enough unit for an ambitious group that needs all the managing it can get?

The City Neros, being really

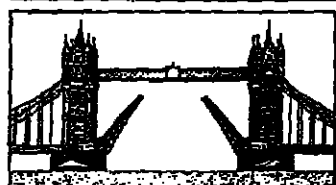
Jacobins at heart, would doubtless love to see gritty Greg Dyke take the helm. For the moment, they will have to be content with a boardroom shuffle that puts Dyke in the running with others and substitutes one former writer of the *FT's* *Lex* column for another as finance director.

Pearson remains full of well-assembled possibilities but lacking in headstrong drive. That may be its corporate undoing. But it is not a bad way to shepherd long-term family interests, interests not unlike those that pension funds are supposed to provide for.

### Snowman trumps canny Ken

FORGET interest rates. Judging from the unexpected surge in retail sales in November, the best way for Kenneth Clarke to get the economy moving would be to engineer a succession of sharp seasonal weather changes. Just as a mid-October delayed au-

### PENNINGTON



tumn buying so the cold snap had people rushing out for clothes more suited to an old-fashioned British winter.

No greater significance should be given to November's brighter sales than the previous lack of business in the high street, albeit there was not a fall in sales in October as originally suggested. Yet those who keep their finger on the pulse were already detecting some lifting of retail gloom. This was also apparent in the CBI's latest distributive trades survey.

Brief sunny periods have caused misjudgments before, notably in the early months of

1995. The underlying reason for the "feel-good" factor remains. The rise in average earnings is not enough to pay for higher prices and increased taxes. That is not a formula for resurgence in retail sales and margins.

Every cloud has a silver lining though. It could well be that people have finally given up on the housing market and decided to spend what they have in other ways. If that is happening, it would make room for many to buy the smaller durables, classic department store lines and the more discretionary lines of supermarkets.

The latest mortgage rate cut is unlikely to change short-term perceptions about the housing market but may help big-spending families more than it hurts retired savers. It could even help bring a good Christmas for trade, though there is little evidence of that yet.

Next year, the retail sector could well benefit from such a close working relationship based on "honesty, integrity, stable

bolstering bank accounts in the spring. That may not be enough to change spending patterns. But it should start sharing the recovery with consumers and help put a smile on shopkeepers' faces.

### Governance/ performance

PROFESSOR John Holland of the University of Glasgow has laboured diligently to produce a 78-page tome on the way in which UK institutions influence boardroom corporate governance, courtesy of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants.

Interviews of an "in-depth" nature were conducted with 27 of the UK's top fund managers. The message is that institutional investors exercise "significant behind-the-scenes influence". According to Mr Holland, financial institutions considered a close working relationship based on "honesty, integrity, stable

stakeholding and regular contact" to be one of the most effective ways of exercising such influence.

Mr Holland has also discovered that "much of this process is conducted outside the public gaze" — not a finding that will surprise many. More quaint are the reasons given for these clandestine goings on, including the law of libel and slander, a UK culture of secrecy and politeness, the speed and efficiency of the process, the "clubby" nature of the City and a preference for a private process rather than public disputes that could damage reputations.

On the correlation of corporate governance and financial performance, the sceptical perspective of one fund manager is worthy of note: "We would push good corporate governance if we were convinced it played a role in good financial performance. Unfortunately, there are some examples of bad corporate governance practice and good financial performance. Has anyone done a study of the companies that have left the FT-SE 100 and those who have joined and associated their failure/success with bad/good corporate governance?" Another paper for Mr Holland?

## Winter sale holds the key to shape of future at MFI

By SARAH BAGNALL

JOHN RANDALL, managing director at MFI, said the future shape of the group depended on its performance during the critical winter sale, which starts on Boxing Day.

MFI, the UK's largest retailer and manufacturer of kitchen and bedroom furniture, started testing a new format called Homeworks in August. Since then it has converted a further 26 MFI stores. The refurbishment programme is a major plank in MFI's attempt to drive forward sales and lift margins.

Mr Randall said: "Homeworks is extremely important to us and we are very pleased with its performance so far." Although many of the stores have only been trading for a short time, they have outperformed the rest of the group by 10 per cent. However, the real test for these stores will be their performance during the winter sale," he added.

If Homeworks is deemed a

success, then the format will be adopted by all the group's 184 UK stores. Mr Randall's remarks came as he reported a 30.7 per cent drop in pre-tax profits to £20.1 million in the 28 weeks to November 11, in spite of a near-5 per cent rise in sales to £380.6 million.

The benefits of increased sales failed to feed through to profits because of a 30 per cent leap in raw material prices over the last 12 months, which MFI was unable to pass on to its customers. These price increases more than offset the benefit to the group of manufacturing more of its products in-house, which is more profitable than out-sourcing the manufacturing.

As a result, gross margin slipped from 52.9 per cent to 51.2 per cent. Net operating margins tumbled even further — from 8.4 per cent to 5.7 per cent — because of the increased depreciation and payroll costs incurred as a result

of the group's store opening programme.

Mr Randall said there were signs of an easing in raw material prices but it was too early to tell whether this was the start of a downward trend.

Tony Shiret, a stockbroker at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, said: "We believe they are reinventing themselves but it's difficult to judge their success in the light of short-term adverse trading conditions." Mr Shiret is not changing his full-year forecast, which before yesterday's news was one of the lowest in the market. However, several other brokers cut their forecasts, leaving estimates in a range of £52 million to £65 million.

The interim dividend, due February 2, was held at 1.5p and is being paid out of earnings of 2.37p a share, down from 3.3p last time. The shares fell 4p to 153½p.

Times, page 28

## Profits and acquisition hopes rise at Chubb

By ERIC REGULY

CHUBB, the security products maker, said it is ready to make a series of acquisitions after having completed more than half of a four-year restructuring programme aimed at lifting its market share and profit margins.

The company, which was demerged from Racal Electronics in 1992, has net cash of £63 million and could easily

make an acquisition of £100 million or more. David Peacock, chief executive, said: "I'm not against gearing. Having a net debt situation does not cause us any concern."

Mr Peacock said Chubb would not stray from its core businesses of electronic security systems and "physical" products such as safes and locks. Expanding in the fast-growing Asian market, as opposed to the highly

competitive American market, is the most likely scenario. First-half operating profits from Asian operations grew from £5.2 million to £6.1 million, or almost a third of the operating profits in Britain.

Mr Peacock said the restructuring effort, which saw the introduction of hundreds of new products, an expanded sales force and new manufacturing sites, has boosted the group's overall

performance. Pre-tax profit for the half year to October 13 rose 13.1 per cent to £44.4 million on turnover of £383.2 million, up 5.2 per cent. Earnings per share were 9.6p against 8.2p. The results would have been stronger were it not for the construction downturn in Britain and continental Europe. Mr Peacock said. An interim dividend of 2.6p, up from 2.32p, will be paid on February 14.

# AMEC

Shareholder information update.  
AMEC's response to Kvaerner's offers.  
To hear your Board's advice call 0800 77 11 77.

The Directors of AMEC p.l.c. are the persons responsible for this advertisement. Those Directors confirm that, to the best of their knowledge and belief (having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case), the information contained in this advertisement is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information. The Directors of AMEC p.l.c. accept responsibility accordingly.

### Cider sector looking rosy says Bulmer

By NICK SUTTON

FURTHER growth in the cider industry was predicted yesterday by John Rudgard, chief executive of HP Bulmer Holdings.

Announcing Bulmer's results for the half-year to October, Mr Rudgard forecast that the UK cider market would rise from 109.5 million gallons a year to 150 million by the year 2000.

Bulmer's turnover has grown 5 per cent to £136.7 million (£130.1 million) during the past six months, and excluding its soft drinks interest which the company disposed of last year, turnover has risen 19.3 per cent.

Pre-tax profits rose 11.9 per cent to £16.0 million (£14.3 million), and earnings per share rose to 19.40p (17.31p). The interim dividend will be 4.55p (4.25p). The market reacted positively to the results, with the shares rising 3p to close at 498p.

John Rudgard, chief executive, is optimistic at Bulmer

Chief's £2.7m as Co-op supplier is sold

## Hilldown buys Hobson

By PAUL DURMAN

HILLSDOWN HOLDINGS, the food group, is paying £121 million to take over Hobson, the company that supplies 99 tea to the Co-op.

The deal brings a temporary halt to the stock market career of Andrew Regan, Hobson's chief executive, who is 30 today. He transformed Hobson last year when he bought FE Barber, the food manufacturing arm of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, for £111 million. Hobson supplies the Co-op and other retailers with own-label biscuits, wine and ready meals.

Mr Regan will receive £2.7 million from Hilldown for his 2.2 per cent of Hobson. Analysts reported some sur-

prise — and mild disappointment — among investing institutions that supported Mr Regan's purchase of Barber in May last year. Hilldown's cash offer of 31p a share is only 4p above the price at which Hobson issued shares to finance the Barber deal. The price is only about 11 times this year's earnings.

Barber was seen as a great opportunity for Hobson and the ambitious Mr Regan. However, its shares have languished, opening yesterday at 28p.

Hobson quickly to cut its initially large debts by selling unwanted canning and packaging businesses. However, it is understood that Mr Regan

found it hard to find another deal that would secure better returns to shareholders than Hilldown offered. Mr Regan is expected to look for another stock market vehicle.

Hilldown said the Hobson businesses were a good fit with its existing interests in tea, biscuits and pickles.

Hobson made pre-tax profit of £7.1 million in the first half of this year on sales of £112.8 million. It is forecast to make about £17 million this year.

Hilldown's offer lets Hobson shareholders receive a 0.4p interim dividend, payable on January 9.

Times, page 28



# Investors find rate cut too little and too late

CONFIRMATION of the quarter-point cut in bank base rates to 6.5 per cent received only the merest ripple of applause from the City.

An early mark-up in share prices proved short-lived as investors began to ponder the outlook for the economy generally. Too little, too late was the view of many. In the event, the FT-SE 100 index closed just 7.5 p higher at 3,662.4, having been more than 18 points higher at one stage. Once again trading proved thin with just 743 million shares changing hands.

Pearson's briefing with brokers revealed details of further heavy rationalisation costs. The shares ended 48p down at 619p after the publisher of the *Financial Times* announced that charges were set to grow from £12 million to £45 million and would leave earnings per share short of City expectations.

Pearson said pre-tax profits in 1995 would be their best, mainly due to a profit of £13 million stemming from the sale of its near 10 per cent stake in BSkyB, although its contribution to profits will drop to £30 million, compared with £57 million last time.

Pearson also unveiled a number of boardroom changes, including the appointment of Greg Dyke, the former head of London Weekend Television, as a main-board director.

A warning about pressure on margins left Kwik Save, the discount food retailer, 38p down at 519p. Shareholders were told at the annual meeting that sales in the first 15 weeks had grown 10 per cent, but that growth had since slowed because of increased price competition. This combined with the cost of converting small stores had added to pressure on margins. Brokers began downgrading their forecasts for the current year, with SBC Warburg slashing its number from £130 million to £116 million.

The major supermarket chains were relatively unruffled by the news from Kwik Save. Tesco was 2p firmer at 303p, J Sainsbury 3p better at 379p, and Asda 3p harder at 316p. Only Asda suffered, retreating 3p to 105p ahead of first-half figures later today. Brokers are forecasting a sharp rise in pre-tax profits, from £108.7 million to £135 million, as the group continues to reap the benefit of



Hot seat: John Randall of MFI, where pre-tax profits fell.

Archie Norman's cost-cutting regime. Like-for-like sales are known to have grown 13 per cent. The focus will fall on current prospects to see how the group is fairing in the vicious food price war during the run-up to Christmas.

Vodafone dropped 6p to 216p after announcing that it was prepared to introduce an extra four recommended tar-

Appleton, down 1p at 162p, and Rexam. Meanwhile, Rexam was continuing to be tipped as a possible takeover target despite a decline from Alusuisse, the Swiss aluminium producer, that it had been prepared to make an offer worth 430p a share. Rexam has been seen as a target following its second profits warning in four

months. The shares finished 19p higher at 350p, still well below their year's high of 517p.

We might expect some good news from Rolls-Royce, the aero-engine group, 4p firmer at 175p. It will be giving a presentation to brokers at its Derby factory today. Top of the agenda will be the Trent, the most powerful jet engine in the world. Brokers will want to know about the engine's potential.

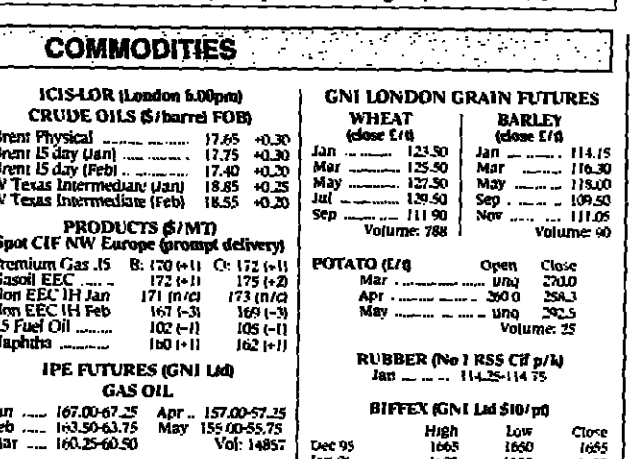
iffs on January 1. Brokers see this as a sign that competition from Orange is starting to make itself felt.

David S. Smith received a warm reception after unveiling a near 50 per cent hike in half-year profits. The shares responded with a rise of 5p to 254p. There had been some concern about the final outcome following a recent profits warning from Arjo Wiggins

months. The shares finished 19p higher at 350p, still well below their year's high of 517p.

An agreed bid from Hilldown, the own-label food producer, lifted Hilldown, the Co-op food supplier, 2 1/2p to 30 1/2p. Hilldown is offering 31p a share, valuing Hobson at £121 million. Hilldown said the deal would be earnings-enhancing once the business and reorganisation costs

in the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt rose 5 1/2p to £110 1/2 as turnover grew to its best level of the week with 45,000 contracts completed. The best gains in the cash market were in shorts and mediums with Treasury 8 per cent 2000 adding 5 1/2p to £104 1/2, while at the longer end Treasury 8 per cent 2013 was two ticks firmer at £103 1/2.



Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

had been absorbed. The City liked the deal and marked Hilldown 8p higher at 160p.

Tomkins rose 7p to 269p after confirming acquisition plans. It has been picked as the preferred bidder for Gates Corporation. No details were revealed, but brokers say Gates is likely to cost Tomkins around \$1 billion.

Analysts appear divided about prospects for MFI following a first-half performance that saw pre-tax profits tumble 31 per cent to £20.1 million as margins came under pressure from soaring raw material costs, higher costs and increased depreciation charges. The interim dividend was maintained at 1.5p, which underpinned the share price, 4 1/2p lighter at 153 1/2p.

John Randall, managing director, said turnover during the four weeks since November had matched the corresponding period last year.

East Midlands Electricity tumbled 30p to 703p after weighing in with interim figures that failed to live up to expectations. Brokers said the figures were distorted by the sale of Ambassador. They were also disappointed with the interim dividend after stripping out a special payment of 120p a share. Half-year figures at the top end of expectations from Chubb Security were rewarded with a share price rise of 10p to 310p.

GIAT EDGED: There was a further steepening of the yield curve following the quarter-point cut in base rates. Brokers said sentiment was bolstered by claims that the cut had also been sanctioned by the Governor of the Bank of England and this enabled the market to shrug off some worse than expected retail sales figures on both sides of the Atlantic.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt rose 5 1/2p to £110 1/2 as turnover grew to its best level of the week with 45,000 contracts completed. The best gains in the cash market were in shorts and mediums with Treasury 8 per cent 2000 adding 5 1/2p to £104 1/2, while at the longer end Treasury 8 per cent 2013 was two ticks firmer at £103 1/2.

NEW YORK: Wall Street shares shook off early lethargy and charged higher with program buying seen as being tied to Friday's triple witching. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 26.74 points at 5,301.66.

## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):  
Dow Jones 5,301.66 (+26.74)  
S&P Composite 639.96 (+2.18)

Tokyo:  
Nikkei Average 10,263.48 (+29.29)

Hong Kong:  
Hang Seng 9,920.88 (+6.91)

Amsterdam:  
EOE Index 478.03 (+1.01)

Sydney:  
AO 2,225.6 (+10.5)

Frankfurt:  
DAX 2,271.80 (+11.97)

Singapore:  
Straits 2,172.08 (+17.78)

Brussels:  
General 830.00 (+18.33)

Paris:  
CAC-40 1,833.76 (+15.18)

Zurich:  
SIX Gen 709.90 (+0.58)

London:  
FT 100 2,699.0 (+6.4)

FT 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

FT-SE 250 1,812.4 (+3.8)

FT-SE 100 3,662.4 (+7.5)

## TEMPUS

New York (midday):  
Dow Jones 5,301.66 (+26.74)  
S&P Composite 639.96 (+2.18)

Tokyo:  
Nikkei Average 10,263.48 (+29.29)



# THE TIMES CITY DIARY

## The drain in Spain

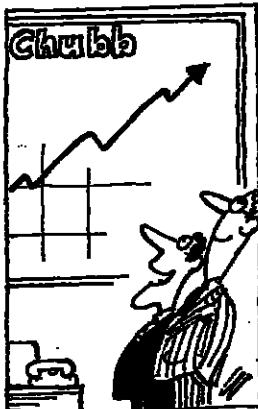
COOPERS & LYBRAND is likely to set a legal precedent as it tries to settle a score over a little local difficulty in Madrid. Coopers' partners are accusing rival Ernst & Young of poaching the entire consulting division in Madrid — 91 employees who bring in £14 million a year. A mole within Coopers' Madrid office claims the staff were already unhappy, but on November 15, the six partners, all apparently Spanish, told Angel Luis Linares, the senior partner, that they were leaving immediately to join Ernst & Young to set up a £5 million division early next year to be called Ernst & Young Consulting. Coopers is suing under the 1991 Law of Disloyal Competition. It will be the first time a court has to decide such a battle between two consultancies. The employees are also being sued for breach of their contracts, which apparently stipulated that staff had to give three months' notice, while the Coopers partners cannot work for a rival firm for at least two years.

## Matter of style

CRUCIAL ground may already have been lost in the hostile £33 billion Granada bid for Forte, as both sides fight for votes from fund manager shareholders. One big fund manager has virtually made up his mind already. He says that while Gerry Robinson, Granada's general chief executive, has been doing the all-important round of visits to fund managers, the Forte camp has rather grandiosely issued summonses for the same key figures to visit Sir Rocco.

## Nuclear family

THE magazine is called *Alpha* and on the glossy cover is a delightful picture of a kingfisher returning to its perch to feed its family after a skillful swoop on its prey — nature in action. The cover headline is *Plant Life*, and nature lovers will be eager to seek out page four to read all about *The Secret Life of Plants*. Who would guess, then, that the entity behind this publication is none other than dear old BNFL, still known to you and I as British Nuclear Fuels. The spin doctors are all aglow about *Sellafield*.



"Who said that crime does not pay?"

## Market-maker

GATT slipped into the history books yesterday as trade officials gently applauded the last speech at the final meeting of the contracting parties who drew up the 1947 treaty that set the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade on the road to opening markets around the world. Gatt is widely credited with helping to fuel the economic boom that followed the Second World War. One delegate said yesterday that Gatt had done its job too well. Communist Moscow once agreed, condemning Gatt as "a colonialist creation bent on ensuring the domination of world imperialism over the toiling masses in Africa, Asia and Latin America." But both Russia and China are knocking on the door of its successor — the World Trade Organisation — which springs to life in the new year.

# The good news is: further interest rate cuts to follow

The long-term City expectations of a sharp rise from the end of 1996 are likely to be proved wrong

The mountain went into labour and brought forth a mouse. In saying this I do not mean to disparage yesterday's cut in interest rates. To make this quite clear, I have carefully omitted the adjective "ridiculous" originally applied by Horace to his mouse. A small cut in interest rates is not necessarily ridiculous and can sometimes be very useful — just like the tiny mouse which appears in many a classical fable. What does seem mildly ridiculous is the fuss Britain makes about every tiny adjustment of interest rates. This time, however, the fuss is fully justified. I have four reasons for saying this — two unfortunate, but the other two very good.

Let us begin, as usual, with the bad news. The fuss over a mere quarter point is justified firstly because it has made the Governor of the Bank of England look foolish yet again.

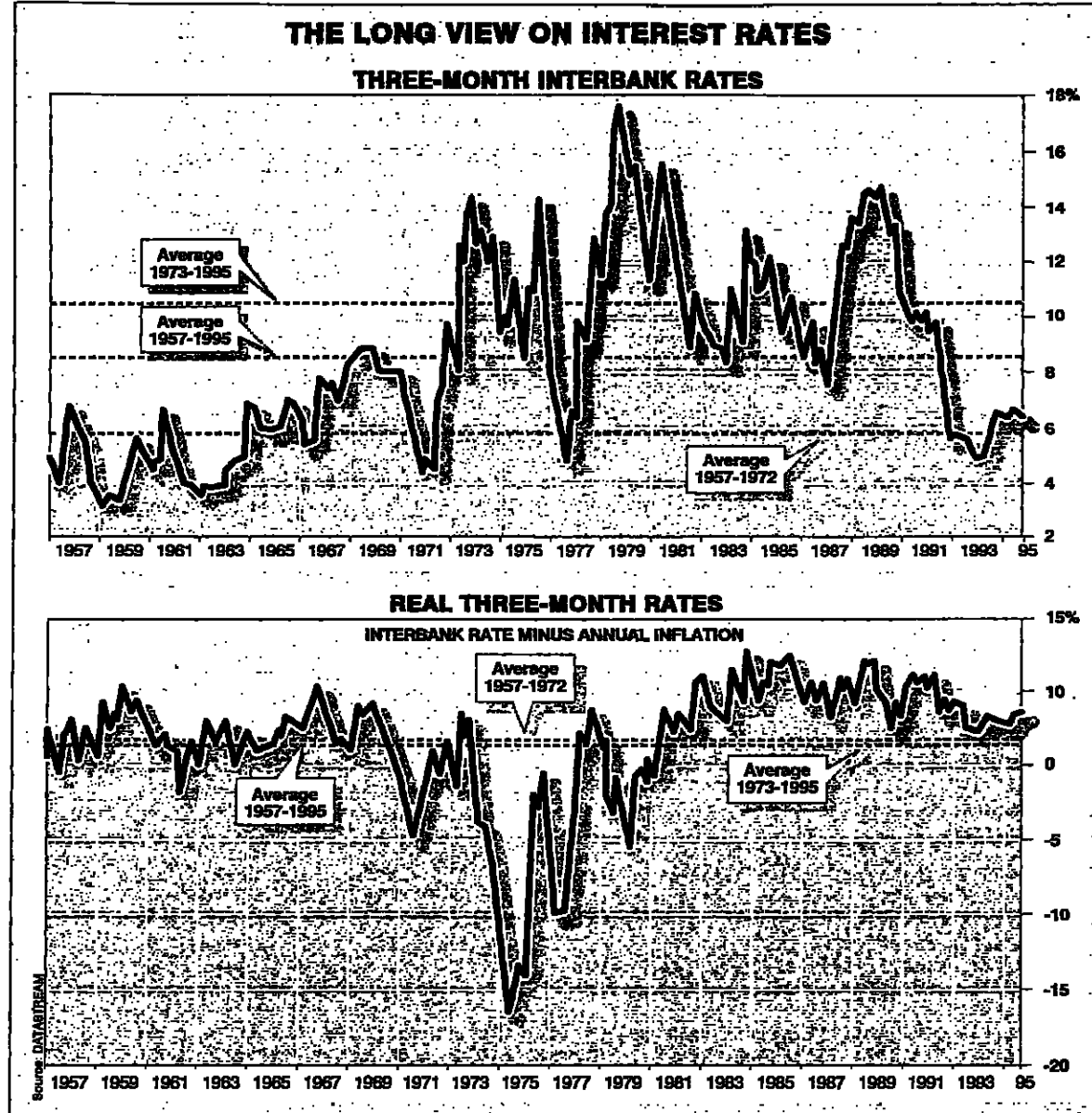
Only last Thursday, Eddie George told the Commons Treasury Committee that he still thought interest rates should have been raised by half a point in May. He went on to declare that the Bank would not even "contemplate" a reduction in rates until it could see at least a 50 per cent probability that inflation in two years' time would be below the Government's 2.5 per cent target. He promised that the Bank would only move from this state of contemplation to an actual recommendation for monetary easing if "we are very confident that inflation will be below 2.5 per cent, allowing for a reduction in interest rates". Then, just to underline the ominous significance of these words, he added: "In our last published projection in early November, we thought that the prospects of achieving the inflation target had improved, but we were nevertheless not on track to achieve it."

What had happened to make the Governor, who only six days ago had described the outlook as "exceptionally uncertain" to the Treasury Committee, suddenly so "very confident" about low inflation?

The official answer is that all the economic figures published in the past six weeks have been lower than expected. But it takes a manic-depressive or a schizophrenic to believe that the long-term economic outlook can change from very uncertain to very confident in the course of a rather uneventful six weeks. Since Mr George suffers from neither of these conditions, it seems more likely that he was being economical with the truth, either yesterday or last week.

Either he was bullied by the Chancellor into recommending a rate cut against his better judgment. Or his blustering remarks before the Treasury Committee, along with the bearish tone of the Bank's *Inflation Report*, were both a cover — a cover designed to avoid a formal admission that the Bank had got its judgment wrong when it called for higher interest rates back in May. Either way, this episode has added to confusion and anxiety among the public, the business community and the financial markets.

This is a time when people in Britain should be investing in new factories and buying new homes, secure in the knowledge that interest rates will fall further and the monetary authorities will do everything in their power to maintain economic growth. Instead, businessmen, homeowners and investors are deliberately made to worry



that interest rates might be kept up or pushed even higher while the economy is left to stagnate.

This damage could easily have been avoided if the Governor and the November *Inflation Report* had simply admitted that the Bank had made an honest mistake in May when it called for higher interest rates. The Bank could then have stated openly that conditions were now ripe for reductions in rates. Given that almost every economist and businessman in the country now believes that rate cuts are needed, the Governor would hardly have been disclosing state secrets if he had endorsed this consensus weeks ago.

This leads to my second cause for regret in yesterday's move: the quarter-point rate cut should have been at least half a point. After the Budget, there was almost nobody outside the Treasury who believed that the forecast of 3 per cent growth next year would be attained without big rate cuts. Just as importantly, the cautious fiscal policies announced in the Budget made big rate cuts achievable and sustainable from a financial point of view.

As this column has argued for years, low interest rates are a country's main reward for fiscal austerity and low inflation. Without low interest rates, a tough policy on taxes and public spending will simply produce a continuous recession. Businessmen's inability to raise prices will simply discourage investment and exacerbate unemployment. If the public and politicians of all parties start to believe that a quarter point off base rates is all they get in exchange for three years of unprecedented fiscal retrenchment and record low inflation, they may well conclude that the game is not worth the candle —

as the French are beginning to recognise with regard to their *franc fort*.

But, fortunately, such anxiety about whether Britain will gain anything from fiscal austerity and low inflation is still premature — and here I come to my two items of good news. The first is the near-certainty that yesterday's rate cut will be followed by several more in the near future. By the middle of next year, the futures markets are expecting three-month interest rates to be down to 6 per cent. Given the present weakness of the British and European economies and the absence of inflationary pressures this seems broadly right.

The even better news is that the City's longer-term expectations — which point to a sharp rise in interest rates from the end of 1996 onwards — is likely to be proved wrong. To see one of the reasons why, I invite a glance at the charts above.

The vast majority of people in Britain still believe in their bones that interest rates of 6 or 7 per cent are some kind of temporary aberration. The typical or natural level of interest rates is seen as something nearer 10 per cent. The charts suggest why many people believe this and also why they are probably wrong. The top chart shows average interest rates for the past 38 years and also for two critical sub-periods: the period of stability which ended with the worldwide inflationary crisis of 1973 and the period since then.

The average three-month interest rate for the whole period was 8.6 per cent and the average for the post-crisis period was 10.5 per cent. Hence the widespread view that today's interest rates are unusually low. But looking back to the non-inflationary period from the late 1950s to the end of 1972, the average rate is only 5.9 per cent. This is the kind of environment we are now in.

The bottom chart is even more suggestive. It shows "real" interest rates, adjusted for inflation. While real interest rates have fluctuated widely over the past 38 years, their long-term average level has been uncannily constant. The average was 1.62 per cent from 1957 to 1995, 1.67 per cent from 1957 to 1972 and has been 1.59 per cent since 1973.

In comparison with these long-term averages, the real interest rate of 3.3 per cent after yesterday's cut is still exceptionally high. (The many building society savers who write in to me to complain about my persistent advocacy of lower interest rates should please note this.) As the bottom chart shows, the high real interest rates from 1981 onwards have effectively been a payback for the exceptionally low and negative rates seen in the eight wildly inflationary years before that.

This inflationary period is now at an end and the payback to investors who were robbed in the 1970s may be almost over. If so, then real interest rates will fall steadily back towards their average levels of between 1.5 and 2 per cent. Let us assume that Britain manages to keep inflation within the 1 to 4 per cent range which generally prevailed in the 1950s and 1960s. Let us add one percentage point to the long-term average of 1.6 per cent, just for good measure. Even then, it is clear that interest rates should rarely, if ever, exceed 7 per cent.

I firmly believe that the next ten years will bear a far closer resemblance to the 1950s and 1960s than to anything we have seen since the crisis of 1973. Hence my long-held confidence that rates above 7 per cent will not be seen in the foreseeable future except perhaps in brief moments of crisis. If I am right, then we can look forward to many more rate cuts — whether Eddie George likes it or not.

## The vast majority of people in Britain still believe that rates of 6 or 7 per cent are an aberration

### BUSINESS LETTERS

#### Commission is wrong way to pay financial advisers

From Mr Jonathon Clark

Sir, It really is too easy for your columnists to lambast the financial services profession for allegedly selling to commission rather than the client's needs (Pennington, December 7 and others) without looking a little more deeply at the situation. Such practice is rightly to be condemned, but is hardly to be wondered at when the commission system from life companies is so haphazard in its structure.

Why should a lump sum invested in a unit trust pay 3 per cent while the same amount placed in an investment bond pays nearly double that? Why

should a regular unit trust savings plan of £100 per month pay £3 per month commission, totalling £900 over 25 years, while an equivalent endowment pays an immediate sum of something over £1,100. Until such inequalities are ironed out, the temptation will always exist for the financial adviser — though that does not excuse them.

The real problem is that a commission-based system is a totally inappropriate way to compensate someone offering professional advice. However, the general reluctance of clients to pay fees which adequately compensate advisers for regulation expenses, train-

ing and administrative (ie, non-chargeable) work means that we are stuck with the present situation.

One solution would be to make it illegal for life companies to pay commission. As a result, the public would have to pay for their advice through fees, rather than the back door which commission offers. In that case, journalists and consumer groups would no longer have the financial advisers as the easy whipping boys they are at present.

Yours faithfully,  
JONATHAN CLARK,  
14 Croftdown Road,  
Harborne,  
Birmingham.

#### Profit motive should play no part in decisions on the future of utilities

From Dr R. D. S. Bloore

Sir, I read with incredulity the report in Friday's *Business Section* (December 8) that spot electricity prices rose from an average of £26.94 per megawatt hour to £1,108. An increase of over 4,000 per cent, after a cold snap lasting for a few days, fills me with foreboding. What will happen when we get another big freeze? Were such rises contemplated by the Government when it was privatising the electricity board or closing most of our coal mines?

Surely, following on the heels of the debacle at Yorkshire Water, the time has come for an in-depth public investigation into these serious problems, before rushing headlong into further privatisations.

The main problems encountered in splitting up the national utilities are twofold: considerations of the public good are replaced by the profit motive and the relationship between the separate parts have to rely on contracts.

I perceive four main problems with these contracts. First, people are seldom clear exactly what they want a contract to provide for. Secondly, they are unlikely to foresee all eventualities. Thirdly, the drafting is rarely perfect. Finally, however good the drafting, the parties often disagree on the precise meaning of the wording used. When several parties are tied together by a raft of contracts, disagreements are assured.

The criterion for all decisions should be long-term stewardship in which short-term gain should play no part. If the Government carries on with its present short-term policy, which appears to be: if it moves sack it, if it doesn't sell it, it is sure to end in tears, not only for us, but for future generations.

Yours faithfully,  
R. D. S. BLOORE,  
Jubilee Villa,  
89 Halliburton Road,  
St Margarets,  
Twickenham.

# Philips ready for life after the Hurricane

Brand-builder chosen to become next chairman, says Sarah Cunningham

Philips, the Dutch electronics company that many people still believe is British, has passed up the chance to appoint a British chairman. Sticking with tradition, the company has nominated a Dutchman, Cor Boonstra, to take over next year.

Dudley Eustace, Philips's vice-president and finance director and a former finance director of British Aerospace, was a name circulating when it became clear that Philips was looking for the successor to Jan Timmer.

In the investment community, Mr Eustace was seen as a long-shot candidate. "It would be very unusual to appoint a chief executive officer as chief executive officer. It happens, but it is not the usual route," one analyst said.

Mr Eustace had a difficult time at British Aerospace, where he was finance officer during a turbulent period, 1988-92. He has redeemed himself at Philips where he is seen as one of the engineers of its remarkable turnaround. The company came close to collapse in 1990, losing 4.2 billion Dutch guilders (£1.7 billion). Last year, it made a profit of 2.1 billion guilders. Mr Boonstra, who is in charge of Philips's lighting division and corporate marketing, was proposed as chairman on December 4, but is not



Eustace: passed over

due to move into the job until October next year. He too is considered an unusual choice for the electronics group in that he has only been with Philips for 18 months. "He will be the first Philips chairman not to have worked for the company for 20 or 30 years," one Amsterdam broker said.

"Philips's problem was that it has a boardroom full of nearly-chairmen," he added. Pierre Everaert and Henk Bodt, also vice-presidents, were equally strong contenders. Andrew Griffin, electronics analyst with NatWest Securities, said: "There was some disappointment that it is another Dutchman, given that it is such an international company."

Mr Boonstra's nomination comes at a delicate time for Philips, which, after ex-

cellent 1994 results, announced in October a disappointing third-quarter performance showing a sharp drop in profit in consumer electronics, the group's biggest single business. The sector's operating results fell from 114 million guilders to just eight million guilders and Philips's share price fell 12 per cent in one day.

Grundig, its German consumer electronics company, was the chief cause of the problems. This final quarter is seen as crucial because consumer electronic sales are traditionally concentrated around Christmas, and analysts are waiting for the full-year results in February with special interest.

Sorting out Grundig's problems will be the next task for Philips and it is unlikely to wait until Mr Boonstra takes over next autumn before making further cutbacks there.

The consensus is that Philips is undervalued. "The sum of the parts is much higher than the share price," Mr Griffin said. But its collapse in 1990, losing 4.2 billion Dutch guilders (£1.7 billion). Last year, it made a profit of 2.1 billion guilders.

A Dutch analyst said: "What Philips needs is to make some strategic acquisitions in multimedia and build a

long-term strategy." But he doubted that Mr Boonstra was the man to do this — he is better known as a cost-cutter in the mould of Jan Timmer, who earned the nickname in Eindhoven, Philips's home town, of "Hurricane Gilbert".

Mr Timmer took over at Philips's low point in 1990. His Operation Centurion, the most radical restructuring seen at a Dutch company, cut 60,000 jobs from a workforce of 310,000.

Mr Boonstra came to Philips after 20 years at Sara Lee, the US food group. This foreign experience and his skills in building brands are expected to work in his favour and could finally see an end to the company's reputation for failing, in a very British manner, to market some excellent inventions.

# Do our customers know something you don't?

According to independent research, Lynx customers rate our service more highly than others rate their present delivery services. All of which now makes us the leading carrier in the market.

Of course, we're not perfect. But even when we get it wrong, we do more to put it right. And we're getting better all the time. After all, we are in the business of delivering reputations.

So we're pro-active. If there's a problem, we'll inform your customers before it's too late so they can make plans.

Each and every one of our people, from drivers to sorters, is empowered to solve problems and ensure promises are kept.

So if you'd like to have a merry, smooth-running Christmas and a trouble-free New Year, call Lynx Freephone on 0800 887722.



Express Delivery Network

## They won't be taking holidays in Jersey

**I**t is often bewailed that much of the cream of today's graduates are siphoned off into the accountancy profession, and an increasing proportion then specialise in tax. The ever-increasing demand for tax professionals appears to be an absurd waste of our country's resources. The cause is simple: the increasing complexity of the UK tax system, which has almost imploded through its over-sophistication.


cal detail notified in the post-Budget press releases. But it is not length alone which gives rise to difficulty, it is complexity. Recent tax legislation has included provisions for the prevention of tax avoidance involving pre-entry capital losses, treatment of foreign exchange gains and losses, and taxation of financial instruments. The proliferation of new material in such specialist areas, together with the manner in which the legislation is written, has made it almost impossible to understand large parts of tax law.

short, sharp and easier to administer.

**Michael Everett was seconded from KPMG Tax Advisers to the Inland Revenue team.**

It is early days but the remedy of suggesting to Jersey that the island's legislation should create a limited-liability partnership provision that would ape the version now available in the US State of Delaware has an elegance and simplicity that leaves people wondering why they never thought of it before. US firms all took up the Delaware option with alacrity. The UK firms, except for KPMG, are expected to do likewise with the Jersey option. It provides all the advantages of having the legal entity offshore but without the stigma. Jersey statutes must be approved by the UK Privy Council, and Law Lords, sitting as the Council's judicial committee, are the final court of appeal. It does not solve everything by a long way. But it does take the partners' personal assets out of the equation. If the partnership makes a mistake, litigants will still let them have it with both barrels, but it will be the partnership as a business and the individual partner who was negligent who will get it in the neck. Families will not have to expect the bailiff's cart to arrive outside

Then there is the narrower business point. The great value, if not the prime purpose of hiring an adviser, is to get his or her advice. Under this ruling, no one will ever give an informal opinion again. It is daft. But the accountancy profession has become used to living in a state of considerable daftness. What is required, as *The Wall Street Journal* pointed out in its leader column last Friday,



**ERT  
UCE**

is "reform of the joint and several liability rule which often means that accountants and other bystanders, who are responsible for only a small share for the damages, wind up footing the entire bill." The Jersey scheme does not address that problem: only the Government and the courts can. A move to some sort of proportional liability system is fair and just. In the U.S. President Clinton is poised to sign the legislation that will do just that. The hope is that action will wake a few people up over here and reform may come faster than slower. The enigma which is left is quite what the partners at KPMG do, apart from seethe. When they were presented with the pile of documents which led them, eventually, to vote for partial incorporation, they were told this was pragmatism and not perfectionism. But they were also told the limited liability partnership route had been vetoed by several very distinguished business opinions. It is obvious whether they vetoed the original, unobvious, 1994 Jersey partnership law or whether they were aware of the prospect of a newly tailored version.

In any case, the KPMG incorporation plan was always more about imposing greater control on the business. But as a result we can expect both Ernst & Young and Price Waterhouse to fill the air with praise for the ethos of partnerships in the months to come.



ROBERT  
BRUCE

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

## Matter of timing

POOR old Moorgate Place. The English ICA called a press conference at its headquarters this Monday to reveal the detail of its merger proposals with Cima, the management accounting body. Unfortunately the steamroller of commerce ran them down. Price Waterhouse called a press conference at the same time to reveal its news on Jersey and litigation. The ICA duly

changed its date. And chose the same time that the Inland Revenue was due to reveal its thinking on tax simplification. Worse, it was the same afternoon when the City vanishes to Twickenham for the Varsity match. The next reschedule is thought to be aimed for Christmas Day.

## Free-for-all

week the Privy Council announced that "with immediate effect" members of Cima could henceforth style themselves "chartered management accountants" and the certified accountants could also call themselves chartered something-or-others as long as they come up with a new name. Now that everyone is gaining the cherished "chartered" sobriquet, the need for mergers to gain a social leg-up has vanished.

## Lost in space


IT MUST be the distractions of Jersey legislation. Coopers & Lybrand have a "tax site" on the Internet. And before the Budget they were telling enthusiasts to "be sure to visit this area again a week after the Budget, when we will be adding more information about the implications of changes for businesses and individuals". But their minds must be on other things. Two weeks after the Budget nothing had been added.

## ROBERT BRUCE

# Lloyds Bank Base Rate.

Lloyds Bank Plc has reduced its Base Rate from 6.75 per cent to 6.50 per cent p.a. with effect from Wednesday 13 December 1995.

The change in Base Rate will also be applied from the same date by Lloyds Private Banking Limited.

**Lloyds  
Bank**

---

THE THOROUGHBRED BANK.

Lloyds Bank Plc. 71-73, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. Tel: 020 7626 3000. Fax: 020 7626 3001. Telex: 500000 LLOYDGB. Lloyds Bank is a member of the Lloyds Banking Group.





# Carving the lottery cake

**Rodney Hobson finds some groups content with their slice and others left scrabbling for crumbs**

If you can't beat 'em, join 'em. As the National Lottery is clearly here to stay, the Charities Aid Foundation and Centurion Press this week launched a new magazine called *Lottery* to help charities claim their share of the proceeds.

Many charities feared their finances would be badly hit as people switched from making direct donations to buying lottery tickets with only a quarter of the money going to good causes, not all of them charities. Those fears have waned lately for some, partly because charities will have been allocated about £162 million of lottery money by the end of the year, according to the National Lottery Charities Board. That makes the lottery the biggest new source of income ever to come the charities' way.

The NLCB announced its second tranche of awards on

November 20, with £35.6 million going to 548 charities including the Samaritans, Arthritis Care and Mencap. All the awards were for less than £500,000, and most for less than £50,000.

An earlier handout — £40 million to 627 charities — was made in October and the final awards from the first-round bids will be made before Christmas. This final batch will include some larger grants.

The National Lottery has also distributed £82 million to charities fighting poverty in Britain. The latest handout, of £4 million, went to 28 groups at the end of November. Awards included nearly £500,000 to Oxfam, which is better known for its operations

in the Third World but decided in May to step up its work in this country.

Barnardos, the children's charity, received £600,000. It says it is too early to assess the impact of the lottery, but a spokeswoman adds: "We are naturally delighted to receive the grant. But we still need to raise a lot of money each year, and we are keeping an eye on the impact of the lottery."

Unsuccessful applicants will be able to apply for funds in the second round, when the account will be on youth. Application packs will be available until January 19 by calling 0345 919191.

Charity grants provide full funding for a project. Matching funds are required by the Arts, Sports, Heritage and

Millennium Boards but voluntary labour and other contributions in kind count.

The Home Office is backing research into the impact of the National Lottery on charitable income, and a report on the first full year of the lottery will be presented to Parliament in spring. The research will consider whether the voluntary sector as a whole is better or worse off, and whether the impact has varied between different types of organisation.

Stuart Etherington of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations is still cautious, though. "The NCVO is disappointed that the lottery appears to have affected the income of fundraising charities," he says. "But we are pleased they are receiving grants from the NLCB."

Others are still less enthusiastic about the impact of the lottery. Save the Children an-

nounced £9 million of cut-backs this month, including the closure of projects and loss of jobs, saying "significant pressure" from the National Lottery was in part to blame.

Even more vulnerable are less well-known groups such as the Sickle Cell Society, which helps victims of a blood disease affecting Afro-Caribbeans.

Child development worker Andy Ashenurst says: "We have had a clear drop in contributions since the National Lottery began. The Sickle Cell Society probably typifies the adverse impact of the lottery. The people who donate to it tend to belong to the less affluent social groups — the very people who are drawn to the lottery in the hope that a big win will transform their lives."

● Lottery will be published quarterly at an annual subscription of £30 from Dept BMS, Merlin Way, North Weald Industrial Estate, Epping, Essex CM16 6HR.



Right: Elaine Taylor and Mike Shepherd with their snakes and ladders Christmas tree, designed for Hambros and sold at auction for £15,000 at last week's Festival of Trees at the Natural History Museum. Sir Terence Conran and Anton Mosimann were among the other designers of the 14 trees sold. Sponsored by Andersen Consulting and attended by the Princess Royal, the evening made a record £200,000 for Save the Children — a welcome antidote to the lottery.

## CHARITY INVESTMENT: MANY HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE

### BARING ASSET MANAGEMENT

Most Charity Fund Managers give you an individual manager to handle your entire investment process.

Baring Asset Management gives you a specialist team approach covering portfolio management, asset allocation and stock selection. And since many heads are better than one, the result is an investment strategy that is more finely tuned to your needs, more sharply focused on your objectives and more clearly able to deliver performance over the long term.

We also give you the reassurance of a local presence in all the world's markets — as every charity knows, nothing beats having people where the need is greatest. Decisions are made faster, and with more confidence.

Perhaps that is why we are one of the largest investment managers of charitable funds in the UK.

For more information, please contact Shona McLeod on Freephone 0500 214 000.



**Baring Asset Management**

Baring Asset Management Limited  
155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3XY. Tel: 0171-628 6000 Fax: 0171-638 7928  
REGULATED BY IMRO

Member of ING GROUP

## All change on the investment front

**Helen Pridham on alterations to charity trustee law**

With more demands being made on charities, their trustees face an onerous task. They must think not only of today's beneficiaries but future generations, too. Their investment strategy plays a vital role in this balancing act.

Charity investment is in a state of change. Earlier this year, charities were given the go-ahead to invest up to 75 per cent of their funds in equities. Then the Charity Commission issued proposed guidelines for charity income and investment of charitable funds. More recently, the Treasury has announced that it is to undertake a fundamental review of regulation.

For small and medium-sized charities, investment matters have not always been a priority. Although charities have been able to invest at least half their funds in equities since the early 1960s, many trustees played it safe and stuck to holding gilts and cash deposits.

John Dockerill, of Mercury Asset Management, explained: "Trustees felt their main duty was to preserve capital sums. Unfortunately, they often overlooked the impact of inflation on their spending power." Even when they invested in shares, it tended to be on a do-it-yourself, rather passive basis. The administration of the in-

vestments was usually left to the Official Custodian.

The demise of the Official Custodian, which passed administration back to the charities, and the Charities Acts of 1992 and 1993, which highlighted trustees' investment responsibilities, brought a change of attitude.

According to Sarah Hamilton, charities marketing manager at Flemings, charity investors started taking an increasing interest in professional management. At the same time, leading City fund managers such as Flemings, Foreign & Colonial and Schroders, which had previously offered their services only to large charities, saw an opportunity to attract smaller charities by offering common investment funds (CIFs). Since

then CIFs have become more popular and more prolific in their numbers and marketing activities. There are now 20 funds available, offering a professionally managed and diversified portfolio of investments. Minimum investment

starts as low as £1,000 and initial and annual management charges can be less than 0.5 per cent.

Even for larger charities, a CIF can be useful. Peter Henderson, of Cazenove, which manages CIFs on behalf of the

Charities Aid Foundation, says: "They can be used for pots of money, such as bequests to provide scholarships, which need to be kept separate and identifiable in the future."

On the investment front, CIFs also give trustees greater freedom. John Dockerill, of Mercury, says: "With CIFs, trustees do not have to worry about dividing investments into 25 per cent narrower-range, 75 per cent wider-range assets. As the funds are special-range investments, they can invest in them in any proportions."

The performance of all CIFs is monitored by CAPs and the WM company. Trustees will need to appraise their charity's income needs and future capital requirements before deciding on their choice of funds. Professional guidance on the most appropriate investment strategy should be sought.

### EQUITY FUNDS

Fund Name	Investment Managers	Fund Size	Total returns per annum Over 5 Yrs	Over 3 Yrs	Over 1 Yr
£		m	% p.a.	% p.a.	% p.a.
CAF Balanced Growth	Cazenove	108.0	15.3	15.4	18.3
Charifund	M & G	530.0	17.1	21.2	16.8
Chariguard UK Equity	Kleinwortz	13.4	—	18.6	18.6
Charishare	Mercury	223.5	16.2	16.6	18.0
Charity Equity	Schroders	69.3	—	18.6	18.9
COIF	CCLA	585.4	16.1	16.4	15.1
Common Fund for Growth	F & C	5.7	—	13.3	13.3
Fledgling UK Equity	Flemings	22.2	—	14.5	15.5
UK Growth & Inc	Berrings	42.6	—	15.2	15.2
RETAIL PRICE INDEX			3.1	2.6	3.9

Performance on bid to bid prices based to 30.9.95. Source: The WMA Company. Other equity funds on offer. The Alpha Charity Fund, Chariguard Overseas Equity.

Performance on bid to bid price basis to 30.9.95. Source: The WM Company. Other equity funds on offer: The Alpha Charity Fund, Chariguard Overseas Equity Fund

### Flexibility for Charities

Does your charity need more flexibility in managing its money?

### The COIF Charity Funds have the answer

- a combination of Common Investment Funds for long term capital and cash deposits
- a reliable performance record over many years
- simplified administration saving Trustee time and reducing costs

For details, telephone:  
**0171 588 1815**  
**Richard Coulson,**  
Client Services Manager



CCLA serves Churches, Charities and Local Authorities  
Issued by CCLA Investment Management Limited (regulated by IMRO). CCLA manages the COIF Charities Investment, Fund Interest & Deposit Funds (Registered Charities Nos. 219873/000510/046029) which are regulated by the Charity Commission. The Trustees and Managers are exempted persons under the Financial Services Act 1986. Share values and dividends and deposit interest can fall as well as rise and an investor may not get back the amount invested. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future returns.

Please send me information about the COIF Funds:

NAME TT 12/95

CHARITY NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

Post or Fax to: CCLA  
St. Alphege House, 2 Fore Street,  
London EC2Y 5AQ. Fax: 0171-588 6291



### CAF Charity Money Management

**The complete donations and investment service for charities**

**£285 MILLION UNDER MANAGEMENT**

- Covenant and appeals management
- Tax reclaims
- CafCash High Interest Cheque Account
- CAF Income Fund and CAF Balanced
- Growth Fund

CONTACT: MIKE GODDINGS ON  
01732 520032 OR  
CAF, KINGS HILL, WEST  
MALLING, KENT, ME19 4TA

## CAZENOVE FUND MANAGEMENT

**Charities & Charitable Trusts**

Cazenove Fund Management  
3 Copthall Avenue,  
London EC2R 7BH  
Tel: 0171-606 0708

Please contact:- Nicholas Pearson

Cazenove Fund Management is a department of Cazenove & Co.,  
Regulated by The Securities and Futures Authority and a member of the London Stock Exchange





More aid for Indian children is coming from India itself, helped by British expertise

## When charity begins abroad

**Philip Barron**  
on how the art  
of fundraising  
is exported

Some people do not respond to appeals from charities working overseas because, they say, the better-off in Third World countries ignore their own poor. This can be an excuse, of course, but British donors with genuine reservations will be reassured to learn that fundraising in the Third World is now being stimulated as never before.

Through a small central team based in London, major Western charities such as Oxfam and the Red Cross are adding gifts of fundraising expertise to their monetary support for partner-agencies abroad.

Responding to the fact that many emerging nations, for the first time in their history, now have a substantial middle class, our top fundraisers have been giving their "secrets" away at a series of workshops in Asia, Africa, South America and, recently, Eastern Europe. Demand for places on the courses is strong: 90 had to be turned away when a workshop was held in Prague in September.

The idea of fundraisers meeting across frontiers dates from 1981, when the doyen of British fundraising, Harold

Sumption, and an American friend, John Erickson, set up a seminar in Holland attended by 35 delegates, all from the affluent West. The event grew into the International Fundraising Workshop, held annually ever since. This year 530 people came.

The first Third World workshop was held in South Asia in 1989. Since then, 3,000 charity workers from 90 countries have been taught how to raise funds effectively.

Our donor-agencies are happy to share their expertise. "It is vital that the projects we support move towards self-sufficiency," says Oxfam's Rona Anderson. "Better fundraising by our partners means we have more funds available for new anti-poverty initiatives. It also builds the confidence and independence of project partners to decide their own priorities and direction when addressing problems in their communities."

Harold Sumption, now 79, tells of one Indian charity which used to get only 20 per cent of its income from its compatriots, the other 80 per cent coming from foreign sources. Now the proportions have been reversed, using the knowledge "exported" by the West.

In Eastern Europe, the phenomenal growth in the voluntary sector since the collapse of communism has created a great need for fundraising skills. It is estimated that in Hungary, for example, there are now 20,000 charities and self-help groups.

The International Fundraising Group, which co-ordinates the workshops worldwide, is based in a small office in Kennington, south London. Its director Per Stenbeck, a Swede who used to work for the Swedish arm of Save the Children, believes the spirit of philanthropy is alive in all nations.

"Fundraising has to do with our innermost feelings of compassion, of wanting to help people in need," he says. "What opens hearts in London will also open hearts in Delhi, Nairobi or Caracas."

## Clarke turns deaf ear to tax pleas

Change to payroll schemes is not enough, say agencies

When the Chancellor Kenneth Clarke announced that he was raising the maximum limit for giving to charity through payroll deduction schemes, the charity industry groaned.

He is proposing to increase the amount which can be donated tax-free from an employee's salary from £900 per year to £1,200 in the 1996-97 tax year, and to put concessions which allow charities to earn some tax-free income on a statutory basis. But charities had hoped for more.

Organisations such as the Charities' Tax Reform Group and the Charities' Aid Foundation have lobbied hard for tax changes to improve revenue. Payroll schemes enable employees to give money regularly before tax has been paid. The CAF runs the biggest scheme — Give As You Earn. While it admits that the £300 rise is generous, it had asked for the limit to be abolished.

It also lobbied for the minimum limit on Gift Aid to be removed. Gift Aid allows charities to reclaim basic rate tax on one-off donations. Originally the Inland Revenue required gifts to be a minimum of £900, but it has reduced the limit to £250.

But Vicki Pulman of the CAF says: "Although the limit coming down has increased the number of people who contribute, a lot more could — or would — afford to give to charity if the limit went altogether."

According to research by the CAF into charitable giving, the average amount given monthly per individual was £10.08. This figure is distorted because 24 per cent of those questioned gave substantially more than £10, while nearly half

gave less than £2 and one in five people gave nothing. However, the Chancellor has not removed the minimum limit, stopping charities from reclaiming tax on the vast majority of the donations they receive. He has also ignored pleas for charities to be exempted from VAT on non-business activities.

Ian Macgregor, chairman of the Charities' Tax Reform Group, says the irrecoverable VAT is costing charities more than £50 million a year. He says: "The figures are so small in terms of the Government's overall spending but they are critical to charities."

"Imagine paying the bills if you run a charitable home for blind or disabled people, where you have to keep the heating at a certain level." Any advantages the changes announced in the Budget might have given have been wiped out by the lowering of the basic rate of tax to 24 per cent.

Charities can reclaim any income tax paid on money donated through Deed of Covenant or Gift Aid. The Inland Revenue will also refund tax paid on money put into a charity account, adding the refund to the balance of the account. The account holder can distribute the money to as many charities as he or she wishes by writing a cheque.

But the reduction of basic rate tax by 1p in the pound means charities can reclaim less tax. The sums might seem tiny, but the Charities' Tax Reform Group estimates it could cost Oxfam £150,000 a year.

JILL INSLEY

For further information contact the Charities Aid Foundation at CAF, King's Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4TA (01732 520000).

## How much do you spend in order to give?

Affinity cards have grown in popularity as a method of donating to charity, with more and more charities offering them. The strength of the resulting feel good factor is such that those with charity-affinity cards tend to spend more on average annually than those with normal credit cards.

According to Midland Bank, which provides a range of affinity cards for charities, the average amount of money spent with such a card tends to be about £1,800 annually, as compared to £1,200 spent with a normal credit card.

The cost-effectiveness of using an affinity card depends on whether you choose to pay off your balance each month. The interest rates on these cards are high. A monthly rate of 1.75 per cent equates to an annual rate (APR) of 23 per

**Caroline Merrell on the pros and cons of giving with charity cards**

cent, which is some 8 per cent higher than the annual rate on normal credit cards offered by Save & Prosper and The Royal Bank of Scotland. If you do not pay off your balance regularly, it may be better to use a normal credit card, and give to charity directly.

The Co-operative Bank launched its affinity card with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in the late 1980s. David Fawell, the bank's marketing manager, says: "We now have 200,000 affinity-card holders out of a total of 900,000 cardholders."

The Bank of Scotland started affinity cards in 1987, linking up to the NSPCC. Alex Steven, the bank's affinity

manager, says: "We started marketing affinity cards in 1990 and now have links with 350 organisations."

The providers of charity affinity cards claim that their success is dependent on the strength of people's feelings for a particular charity. They use the charity's mailing lists to encourage people to apply for one. The cards work on the principle of an upfront donation to charity — at present £5 — when the card is taken out, plus an donation of around 25 pence for every £100 spent.

They do take the effort out of giving but may not be the most efficient way to make donations. For example, if you give more than £230, or pledge to

give money each year for four years, you can benefit from tax relief, so that a £100 donation is worth £124 to the charity.

The Charities Aid Foundation, a charity which allows its members to contribute to a number of different charities, does not believe that affinity cards are tax efficient. The foundation has two schemes: one for those who want to give £250 and one for those who want to pledge money over four years. It will reclaim the tax back from the Government, and then give the money to the chosen charity.

It may be more tax efficient to give money under the payroll-giving scheme, operated by employers. This allows payment to a charity each year out of untaxed income. In the last Budget, the Chancellor increased the annual ceiling on payroll giving to £1,200.

### AFFINITY CARDS

Affinity card	Issuer	Int rates per month	On open	Donations % of pay
Amnesty International	Co-op Bank	1.7	£5	0.20
Bank of Scotland Affinity Groups		1.83	Variable	
Caracard	Midland	1.75	£5	0.25
Feed the Children	Co-op Bank	1.7	£5	0.25
Halifax Visa charity card	Halifax BS	1.49		0.20
Help the Aged	Co-op Bank	1.7	£5	0.25
Labour Party	Co-op Bank	1.7	£5	0.25
Lib Dems	Co-op bank	1.7	£5	0.25
MBNA		1.45	Variable	0.25
National Trust	Midland Bank	1.75	£5	0.25
Oxfam	Co-op Bank	1.75	£5	0.25
RSPB	Co-op Bank	1.7	£5	0.25

Caracard charities include Age Concern, Cancer Research Campaign, Save the Children, Bank of Scotland charities include ActionAid, Great Ormond Street, RSPCA, MBNA has 200 affinity groups including the Officers' Pension Society, WWF (UK). Halifax charities include British Heart Foundation, Mencap, Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

## CHARIFUND

### THE EQUITIES INVESTMENT FUND FOR CHARITIES

Charifund is a wider range investment for recognised charities to invest in a broad spread of shares and can pay out its quarterly income distributions without deduction of tax.

The fund aims to provide a growing income for charities at an above-average level while at the same time protecting their capital from the erosive effect of inflation. Since the fund was formed in 1960 it has grown to over £530 million by end of November 1995.

Any charity recognised by the Inland Revenue may invest. A share exchange scheme, with favourable terms, is available.

Trustees should be aware that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up, and that past performance is no guarantee of the future.

To: The M&G Group, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB. Return this coupon or telephone Customer Services on (0245) 390 390 during business hours for details of Charifund and the M&G Share Exchange Scheme.

Mr/Ms Miss	INITIALS	SURNAME
ADDRESS		
POST CODE		
TELEPHONE NUMBER		NCACRY

M&G also provide a segregated investment management service for charities with funds of £15m or more. Please tick this ☐ box if you are interested. CIM does not offer investment advice or offer any recommendations regarding investments. We only market units in Charifund.

We never make your name and address available to unconnected organisations. Naturally we will occasionally tell you about other products or services offered by CIM or companies which are members of the M&G Group. Tick the box ☐ if you would prefer not to receive this information. The Share Exchange Scheme is operated by M&G Financial Services Limited - Regulated by The Personal Investment Authority.

Segregated investment management is provided by M&G Investment Management Limited - a member of IMRO. Charifund is managed by Charities Investment Managers Limited (CIM) - Regulated by IMRO and The Personal Investment Authority - which has issued this advertisement. Neither M&G nor CIM offer investment advice or make recommendations regarding investments. We only market the packaged products and services of the M&G marketing group, and units in Charifund respectively.

**M&G**

THE M&G GROUP

"Our charity clients expect a personal service, consisting of good investment performance, reliable administration and security of assets."

Different charities have different investment objectives. At Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, we work closely with trustees to understand these objectives; and we have the resources to match our services to their specific needs.

In recent years, we have achieved above-average performance through a disciplined investment process and a well-organised research programme which includes annual meetings with senior management to gain first-hand knowledge of over 4,000 companies around the world. Our structure is designed to ensure that every client benefits from the talents of all 120 of our fund managers.

We also continue to invest in high quality administrative personnel and systems to ensure that reporting to trustees is clear, concise, timely and tailored to their individual requirements.

For more details, contact Philip Young or Deborah Kirby on 0171-256 7500.

And discover just how much security our services can offer your charity fund.

**MC**  
**AM**

**MORGAN GRENELL**  
**ASSET MANAGEMENT**

Incised by Morgan Grenell Investment Management Ltd.  
Registered by FIMRO

RESOURCES • RESEARCH • RESULTS



## Modest gains in thin trading

**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1985					1985				
High	Low	Company	Pct. Chg.	Yr. +/-	High	Low	Company	Pct. Chg.	Yr. +/-
<b>BANKS</b>									
232D	217D	1st Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	2nd Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	3rd Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	4th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	5th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	6th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	7th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	8th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	9th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	10th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	11th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	12th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	13th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	14th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	15th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	16th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	17th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	18th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	19th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	20th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	21st Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	22nd Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	23rd Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	24th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	25th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	26th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	27th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	28th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	29th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	30th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	31st Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	32nd Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	33rd Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	34th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	35th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	36th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	37th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	38th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	39th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	40th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	41st Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	42nd Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	43rd Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	44th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	45th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	46th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	47th Nat'l	286D	-2	45	105	127		
232D	217D	48th Nat'l</							

# Modest gains in thin trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1995 Low Company Price % + - P/E				1995 Low Company Price % + - P/E				1995 Low Company Price % + - P/E				1995 Low Company Price % + - P/E					
11	Lin	10	1.0	2.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1
12	Lin	10	1.0	2.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1
13	Lin	10	1.0	2.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1
14	Lin	10	1.0	2.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1
15	Lin	10	1.0	2.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1
16	Lin	10	1.0	2.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1
17	Lin	10	1.0	2.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1
18	Lin	10	1.0	2.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1
19	Lin	10	1.0	2.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1
20	Lin	10	1.0	2.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1
21	Lin	10	1.0	2.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1
22	Lin	10	1.0	2.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1
23	Lin	10	1.0	2.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1
24	Lin	10	1.0	2.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1
25	Lin	10	1.0	2.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1
26	Lin	10	1.0	2.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1
27	Lin	10	1.0	2.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1
28	Lin	10	1.0	2.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1
29	Lin	10	1.0	2.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1
30	Lin	10	1.0	2.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1
31	Lin	10	1.0	2.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1
32	Lin	10	1.0	2.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1
33	Lin	10	1.0	2.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1
34	Lin	10	1.0	2.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1
35	Lin	10	1.0	2.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1
36	Lin	10	1.0	2.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1
37	Lin	10	1.0	2.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1	363	30	1.0	15.1
38	Lin																

1985			1985			1985			1985		
High	Low	Company	Price	+/-	%	High	Low	Company	Price	+/-	%
112	112	Beane Indecon	151	21	4.8	161	161	20	167	17	10.2
117	117	Cheniere	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
118	118	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
120	120	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
121	121	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
122	122	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
123	123	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
124	124	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
125	125	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
126	126	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
127	127	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
128	128	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
129	129	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
130	130	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
131	131	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
132	132	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
133	133	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
134	134	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
135	135	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
136	136	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
137	137	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
138	138	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
139	139	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
140	140	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
141	141	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
142	142	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
143	143	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
144	144	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
145	145	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
146	146	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
147	147	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
148	148	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
149	149	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
150	150	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
151	151	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
152	152	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
153	153	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
154	154	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
155	155	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
156	156	Delella	200	1	0.5	200	200	1	200	0	0.0
157	157	Delella	200	1							



Though his life is shrouded in legend, Alfred was still a great ruler, says Peter Ackroyd

## Scholar, Christian and King

The episode of the burnt cakes is of course absurd; it was invented in the 11th century by some ingenious chronicler who realised that fiction has a greater hold over the public and historical imagination than mere fact. But that story does establish the tone in which studies of King Alfred have characteristically been conducted: one of the sections in Alfred Smyth's elaborate and impressive study is entitled "A Thousand Years of Deceit".

It provides a most interesting account of academic scholarship. Until very recently — in fact, until this year — students of English history have been given as a set-text an apparently contemporary life of King Alfred written by a bishop named Asser. Asser's *Life* is quoted and interpreted in all studies of the 9th century, and has been considered to give a unique insight into the life and reign of Alfred the Great. He is portrayed as a "hero-king", a saintly scholar who had understood Latin by miraculous intervention and a warrior who, despite being gravely troubled by a mysterious illness not unrelated to haemorrhoids, had fought off the Danes practically single-handed. This was the account taken up by Protestant hagiographers at the time of the Reformation and by 19th-century imperialist historians, intent on fashioning their own idea of England.

In fact, as Professor Smyth coherently and convincingly proves, Asser's *Life* is a tissue of fictions written some 200 years after Alfred's death by a credulous and, in many respects, ignorant monk who plagiarised material from the standard hagiographies of saints and other kings. It is a "sad hotchpotch" of lies and misinformation, designed solely to assert West Saxon authority and power over other parts of England.

Yet, for reasons which Smyth explains in great detail, the most serious and respectable historians continued to regard this meretricious invention as a genuine biographical document dating from Alfred's own reign. Twentieth-century scholars swallowed the propaganda of an early 11th-century monk. As a result, of course, the true figure of Alfred has been enveloped in mist and darkness more profound than the genuine

verities of England's early history. Perhaps a few facts are in order. Alfred, born in 847 or 848, was the youngest son of Aethelwulf, King of the West Saxons. He inherited the kingdom at the age of 23, but his first royal experience was that of defeat at the hands of the Danes. For a period he became a Danish vassal or "sub-king", and seems to have expropriated monastic lands and revenues for his own use.

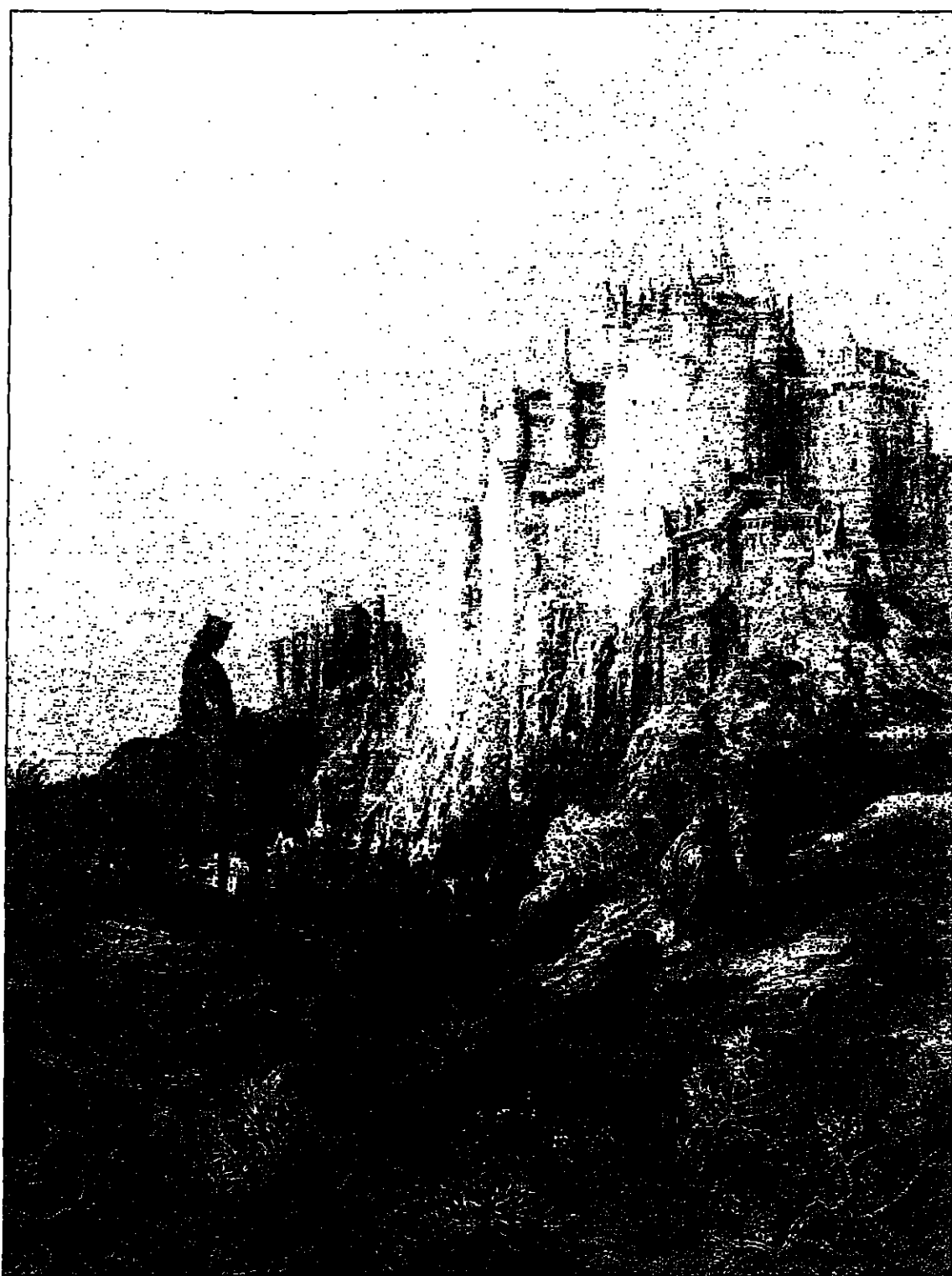
Then, in a decisive battle, his army defeated Guthrum and compelled the warlord to forsake Woden and convert to Christianity. It was Alfred's "finest hour", according to Smyth, and the battle site of Edington (in Wiltshire) should be commemorated for ever as the place where Anglo-Saxon culture was defended and preserved. There is a gap in the Anglo-

Saxon *Chronicle*, and little is recorded of Alfred in his years of peace. But the plot resumes with the invasion of Haesten in 992. Eventually the Danish forces retreated into Northumbria, having suffered from

Alfred's continual "war of attrition", and perhaps also after being bribed by the King's money.

The *Chronicle* itself is silent on this matter of Danegeld, as on so much else, and it is Smyth's contention that the mid-9th-century manuscript was essentially a propaganda vehicle for Alfred's 26-year reign. We must discard any contemporary sense of history and of historical evidence when dealing with these productions: in a Christian civilisation, chronological time is a relatively unimportant concept when compared with spiritual and emblematic truths.

In this context it is interesting to note that Smyth locates the spurious life of Asser within a circle of monks at Ramsey, near Cambridge, who also produced other fictional biographies; the most eminent of these fakers seems to have been Byrhtferth who, in Smyth's words, "resorted to invention and blatant forgery". This "unscrupulous and ruthless forger" was concerned to promote the cult of Arthur and to further the cause of monastic reform. We are accustomed to the romantic forgeries of an Ossian, or a Chaucer, but here we find a group of monks quite deliberately inventing a history of England which would suit



Like the cult of Alfred, that of Arthur was promoted by monks at Ramsey to further the cause of reform: one of Gustave Doré's newly reissued illustrations for Tennyson's *Idylls of the King* (Dover, £7.95 pbk)

their own purposes. What is more surprising, however, is the fact that their accounts have been accepted as genuine for almost a thousand years.

And yet out of this mist of fraud, plagiarism and benighted scholarship Smyth does manage to grasp the elusive figure of the real King named Alfred. This is in every sense a magisterial work, with some 600 pages of detailed and clearly argued narrative.

David Sturdy's account is much shorter, and is perhaps marred by its acceptance of "Asser's precise contemporary evidence". Dr Sturdy was a lecturer in medieval archaeology, and the archaeological sections of his study are the most interesting.

But Smyth has brought together all of the available evidence, and has

discovered Alfred to have been "a man of high intelligence, backed by boundless energy". He was also very learned, "steeped in a lifetime of Latin and Old English scholarship", and preoccupied by the cultural past. He had, according to Smyth, "an abiding interest in English history as such". It has often been said that the English are innately antiquarian — Goethe mocked them for it in *Faust* — and Alfred might then be seen as the first great national exemplar of that tradition.

He was not particularly saintly, especially in his appropriation of monastic lands, but he did establish a "translation programme" designed to reproduce the great works of late antiquity in Old English. He himself translated Boethius and Augustine,

and gathered scholars around him to work upon Bede, Osorius and others. He seems to have possessed an innate sense of national identity from his earliest years, and it is appropriate that he should have been able to consolidate his power to such an extent that we risk only a little overstatement in calling him the first King of England.

Smyth's book, then, must stand as the definitive account of the reign. Alfred was indeed a "master", who always wished to be remembered as a great Christian king. Certainly his memory has never faded from the memory of the English people, even if it has generally been perpetuated by legend and falsehood. But now, in Smyth's narrative, he emerges from the darkness at last.

## Cutting short her long lad

Antonia Fraser

**DARNLEY**  
A Life of Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley, Consort of Mary Queen of Scots  
By Caroline Bingham  
Constable, £18.95

Who was Henry King of Scots? This historical quiz question might cause even the most hardened contestant to pause and review the possibilities. For example, King Henry VIII attempted to swallow up Scotland in the 1540s in a campaign known, appropriately enough, as the Rough Wooing; did he actually succeed? But the answer is not Henry VIII, nor is it Cardinal Henry Benedict Stuart, brother of Bonnie Prince Charlie, who, for Jacobite legitimists, became King Henry IX after the latter's death. The answer is another Henry Stuart: Lord Darnley, second husband of Mary Queen of Scots, who during their brief marriage was known as King Henry — at any rate in Scotland.

The point is underlined by the fact that the first coinage of the newly married pair was issued in the name of HENRICUS ET MARIA. In fact very few of these coins got into circulation, before the ryal was recalled in favour of an identical coin — but bearing the inscription MARIA ET HENRICUS. Although the reversal of the names on the coin presumably reflected Queen Mary's second thoughts on the subject of her husband's status, it is clear that "Maria" as Queen did not attempt to eject "Henricus" as King altogether. The question of Darnley's exact status is at the heart of their troubled marriage — to say nothing of Darnley's murder at Kirk O'Field.

Caroline Bingham, who is an esteemed writer on Scottish subjects, has had an intelligent idea in writing Darnley's biography (rather than another of the more famous Mary). For her *Darnley* does more than illumine the life of a young man, handsome enough, with some literary talent, but morally distasteful. Bingham is also able to analyse, via Darnley's life, the extraordinary problem that any queen regnant faced over her marriage. It was certainly not a problem that the fascinating, wayward Mary came anywhere near solving — despite three attempts at it. But the successful solution of her cousin Elizabeth I — not to marry at all — was somewhat radical; it meant that the succession inevitably went elsewhere after her death.

By beginning her story with the ramifications of the Tudor family tree, Bingham correctly demonstrates how Darnley's entire life was dominated by his position here. It was his royal Tudor blood — possibly bolstering Mary's claim to the English throne, which attracted her long before she ever saw "yon long lad". (The temptation for six-foot woman to wed six-foot man, one of the few there were around, must have been irresistible.) It was this same Tudor blood of Darnley's which made the match so irritating to Elizabeth: balked of her prey, with Darnley now kinging it in Scotland, she imprisoned Darnley's mother, Margaret Countess of Lennox, as a lesson to ambitious parents.

Then there was Darnley's position in the Stuart tree. For all but the last months of that short life — he died at the age of 21 — Darnley could claim to be his own wife's heir in Scotland — which should perhaps have made him a supportive consort, but did in fact

ignite dangerous dreams of sole command, should his wife die. The birth of Mary and Darnley's son, James, in 1566 was a further dynastic complication, for the appearance of a direct male heir edged out the claims of Darnley, his own father. In this context, Bingham firmly faces the fact that Darnley hoped for the death of Mary (and her unborn child) during the atrocious burling of her secretary Riccio, carried out in her presence. He was a murderer, and he was murdered in his turn.

The so-called Crown Matrimonial was the prize that Darnley sought. This would



Henry, Lord Darnley

not only have given "Henricus" equal powers with "Maria", but also enabled him to reign alone, in the event of her death, regardless of the existence of James, a nearer claimant in blood (as William III did in England after the death of his wife, another Mary). But this Crown Matrimonial was outside Mary's gift: it needed the consent of Parliament. The Scottish nobles were united on very little, although their leaders played Darnley adeptly over the killing of Riccio; but they were quite sure that they did not want the vicious Darnley with supreme royal powers.

The picture painted by Bingham is not such as convinces one that the nobles got it right. She is good on Darnley's literary efforts, putting them in perspective, and as charitable as possible, within the bounds of historical accuracy, about Darnley himself. However, Bingham does not deny that he was recovering from syphilis at the time of his death, nor does she exculpate Darnley from the various charges of brutality and treachery laid at his door by other historians.

One may disagree with Bingham's considered verdict that Mary had foreknowledge of Darnley's death, and hence shared the guilt: why should the assassins tell their Queen in advance about something for which they did not need her co-operation? But it is hard to feel much regret for that slaying, on the evidence Bingham deploys. Henry King of Scots had physical height, but no other kind of stature.

## Fiery monarch of the glen

I amused Winston Churchill that his wartime coalition included both the premier duke of England and the rabble-rousing founder editor of *Forward*, the Glasgow-based Socialist weekly. The Duke of Norfolk, Earl Marshal of England, was Under-Secretary of State for Agriculture. The rather more exalted office of Secretary of State for Scotland was filled by Tom Johnston — radical journalist, Labour politician and scourge of the Scottish aristocracy.

Churchill regarded him highly. "Here's the King of Scotland," he announced when Johnston arrived at a Downing Street reception. It was doubtless said with an impish grin, but the sobriquet could not reasonably have been applied to any of the Crown's North British subjects for the previous 150 years — not since Henry Dundas, "Harry the Ninth", who kept the government machine north of the border oiled for Pitt the Younger.

Johnston had always wanted to write. He founded *Forward* — no gambling news, no advertisements for alcohol — in 1906. For too long, he cried, "the massed forces of reaction, the plunderers, the conservers, the old women in trousers, the farthing reformers have had it all their own way". H.G. Wells wrote for him, and so did Bernard Shaw, Ethel Mannin and Bertrand Russell. Northcliffe tried to lure him to London with a four-figure salary (the equivalent of a six-figure one today), but he wouldn't budge.

He never lacked enemies, mainly because he seldom limited himself to one offensive adjective when two would do the job equally well. Not content to advocate the nationalisation of land, he felt impelled to savage Scottish landowners — "a selfish, ferocious, famishing, unprincipled set of hyenas". It sounded tremendous, even when, as in some of the knottier passages of the Old Testament, the plain prose was elusive. The Scottish aristocracy, he thundered,



Tom Johnston: Churchill called him "King of Scotland"

Ian McIntyre

**WITHOUT QUARTER**  
A Biography of Tom Johnston  
By Russell Galbraith  
Mainsream, £20

"have pruned the creeds of our Church and stolen its revenues; their mailed fists have crushed the newer thought and their vanities the arts".

He was 41 before he entered Parliament. Beatrice Webb thought him "the best of the Clyde lot". Soon he was complaining in *Forward* that Labour was becoming obsessed with the idea of winning power at the next election. "The host that is to march forward to the destruction of capitalism is to be digested as voluntary welfare workers with elastic-sided boots out for an excursion," he

wrote bitterly. "The kingdom of man is to come by stealth." Sounds vaguely familiar.

He was briefly in office in the first two Labour Governments, as Scottish Under-Secretary and Lord Privy Seal. He sometimes played hard to get. Offered the Scottish Office in 1940, he said he wanted to stay at home and write history books. "Good heavens, man," an incredulous Churchill growled. "Join me and you can help make history!"

And so he did, both during his four years in the Cabinet and on into his late seventies. The virile and uncompromising wordsmith of earlier days matured into a formidable pragmatic political operator. He got Churchill's agreement to the setting-up of the Scottish Council on Post-War Problems, a small body composed of all his surviving predecessors at St Andrew's House. They gave their minds to everything from Hydro-

electric development to the needs of the herring industry.

When hospital beds earmarked for civil defence casualties remained mercifully empty, he arranged for them to accommodate ordinary patients who could not afford specialist treatment. He made a major contribution to the White Paper, approved by the War Cabinet in February 1944, outlining a future National Health Service. His commitment to Home Rule was unwavering but realistic. He saw little to commend an assembly in Edinburgh if all it had to administer was "an emigration system, a glorified Poor Law and a graveyard".

After he left politics in 1945, Antler had to the Inland Revenue — they were pursuing Johnston for tax on the Cabinet minister's salary he had declined to draw. He also declined a peerage and, though more reluctantly, the Order of the Thistle (he would have accepted if he could have remained plain Mr Johnston).

Antler saw him as a possible vicar to succeed Wavell, but nothing came of it. Instead, he joined the Forestry Commission, was briefly chairman of the Broadcasting Council for Scotland, effectively created the Scottish Tourist Board and for 13 years ran the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board, which he saw as a cousin to the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Johnston left few personal papers. It would have been nice to know more about his family life and his friendships. This workmanlike but essentially journalistic account is confined strictly to the public man. Russell Galbraith offers as an epitaph words that Johnston himself borrowed from Macaulay: "When none is for the party, and all are for the State, we get home." He has opened, but not exhausted, a rich biographical seam.

Ian McIntyre's *Dirt and Deity: A Life of Robert Burns* was published last month by HarperCollins.

## All created equal — except in talent

IN 1970, says Malcolm Bradbury, the idea of a university course in "creative writing" was regarded in Britain "as a dangerous American invention, like the vacuum cleaner". Nevertheless, he went ahead with his fellow-professor, Angus Wilson, at the brand-new University of East Anglia, and set up an MA in the subject. This year he has retired, and the poet Andrew Motion has taken over his Chair of Creative Writing. So what has been achieved in those 25 years of imaginative word-processing?

Bradbury gives his answer in this book, *Class Work* — a collection of 31 of the best short stories written by students on the course during that time. A

Derwent May

**CLASS WORK**  
Edited by Malcolm Bradbury  
Sceptre, £16.99

He was the only person in that first year. Aged 22, he had never written a story. "I suggested I might try out a number of deranged first-person narrators... One of them might trick his kid sister into incest. Bradbury sucked on his pipe and said: 'Try and let me have it before the end of the month'."

MCEWAN SUMS UP Bradbury's pedagogic style as "informality, complete lack of interference and carefully muted judgement". It clearly worked with McEwan, as his latest collection, *The Short Stories* (Cape, £9.99), demonstrates. After McEwan's solitary year, more and more students started coming, and other teachers, such as Rose Tremain, joined him. Erica Wagner, who was a student in 1990-91 (and now works at *The Times*), told me that there was still the same air of informality when she was there, but the students were definitely encouraged to concentrate on stories that would sell.

She herself has a deftly written story in *Class Work*, about a sexually tempted clergyman who becomes a lion-tamer in order to escape the jaws of hell, and ends up in some other jaws. Evidently the students got a good training in clear, well-organised writing.

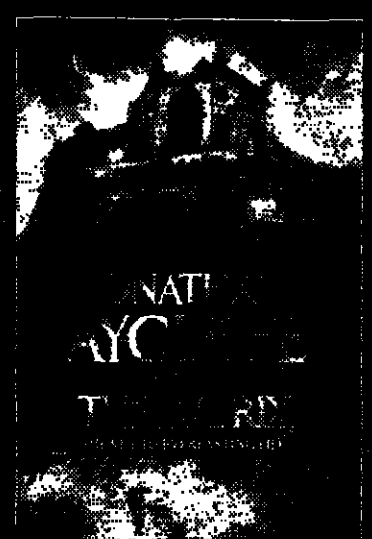
But most of the stories lack much force or originality, which suggests what we all suppose, that writers are born not made. Several of them are about school or college mates who rebel successfully or unsuccessfully; others are tales of what seems like sexual daring to the writers, but does not

stirle one so much as they suppose. Rose Tremain has a story that is hardly one of her best — it is just a neat little picture of working-class quaintness; even McEwan's brilliant *Solid Geometry* has an air of calculated mischievousness. Among the stories that most

struck me were Clare Morgan's *L'Hôtel Des Grands Hommes*, about a would-be woman writer who gets a glimpse of the American writer Raymond Carver in her Paris hotel. Her holiday with her husband is ruined by the agitation it causes her. Jacqui Lofthouse's *The Effigy* is an excellent imaginary monologue by the ghost of the playwright William Congreve, whose mistress the Duchess of Marlborough — to Congreve's great posthumous annoyance — casts a life-size wax statue of him around with her.

It is perhaps a pity that among the students at Norwich there was also — in 1979-80 — Kazuo Ishiguro. He too has a story here, *A Family Supper*, about a young Japanese man returning from California to his father's house in Tokyo. For suspense, subtlety in the telling, and intensity of emotion, it knocks all the others into a cocked hat. Oh, yes — they must be born.

YOU DON'T JUST  
READ AYCLIFFE...



'Quite the most frightening novel you'll read this year...'

...just in time to  
haunt your Christmas

YOU EXPERIENCE HIM!

Out now in paperback

HarperCollinsPaperbacks







# Sports fans follow the flag to far-flung fields

BY TONY DAWES

PACKAGE tours to see the Bruno-Tyson fight in Las Vegas, football matches in Milan and Madrid and rugby internationals in Paris are being offered by a host of specialist travel companies this week, amid a boom in demand for sporting holidays.

The interest in the fight, nearly 6,000 miles away on March 16, comes as thousands take a more traditional sporting holiday: following the England cricket team

abroad. Hundreds of English fans are already in Durban for the Third Test against South Africa, which starts today, but thousands more will fly out for the matches over Christmas and New Year in Port Elizabeth and Cape Town.

David Dryer, whose sports tour company in Woodford, northeast London, is one of those offering trips to Las Vegas, says: "Cricket might be the most popular sport to combine with a holiday but whims and fancies keep changing and boxing and Italian and Spanish

football are attracting a wide following. Frank Bruno's personality, the mystique surrounding Mike Tyson and the popularity of Las Vegas as a resort are all creating considerable interest, and as many as 2,000 British fans could make the trip." Four nights in Las Vegas with scheduled return flights costs £599 per person from Mr Dryer's company, and flight tickets, which he can supply, are extra.

A three-day football trip to Barcelona or Madrid costs £299 per person, including tickets for a

Spanish championship match. Mr Dryer says: "Visits to top Spanish and Italian league matches have grown in popularity in the past few years."

Graeme Ainslie of VIGB travel, which offers trips to top games in Italy, says: "Our research showed that AC Milan was the team most people wanted to see so we made direct contact with the Berlusconi empire, which runs the club, for tickets. As a result, we can now offer tickets for all parts of the San Siro stadium and, in addition, an incen-

sive group package which includes a trip to an AC Milan training session with a chance to meet players."

With the Five Nations rugby championship beginning next month when England play France in Paris, scores of companies are offering weekends in the French capital, including tickets for the match, at prices of about £500 per person. They include Mike Burton Sports Travel, run by the former England international, which has just launched its brochure for cricket's next extravaganza: the

World Cup in the Indian sub-continent next February.

Hugh Clayton, manager of Kuoni's specialist travel division, which is also organising tours to the World Cup, says: "We have already received strong interest in England's next Test series abroad in Zimbabwe and New Zealand."

David Dryer Sports Tours 0181-559 8966; VIGB Travel 071-434 3641; ItaliaTour 071-371 1114; Kuoni Sports 01306 74477; Mike Burton Sports Travel 01452 412444; Gullivers Sports Travel 01684 393175.

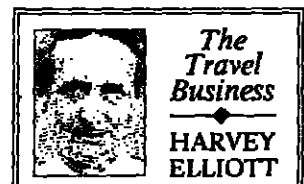
## Balpa cries wolf

THERE can be few professions that instil higher public confidence than that of airline pilot. Yet last week Balpa, the pilots union, spent thousands of pounds on advertisements in national newspapers under the banner "Airline Safety at Risk". New rules proposed by the Joint Aviation Authorities, Europe's new safety organisation, would allow maximum crew duty times which, said Balpa, were "unnecessary and dangerous". It urged passengers to write to their MPs because "flight crew are worried and alarmed and you should be too".

What on earth has got into Balpa? The proposed new duty times have been discussed within the industry for many years, and from time to time Balpa has claimed that a longer duty day would lead to pilot fatigue. But never has it gone as far as this — launching a campaign which is nothing short of scare-mongering.

Many pilots are deeply embarrassed by the advertisements which even senior BAA officials admit are more to do with pay and conditions than safety.

The truth is the European regulator was going to produce new crew-duty rules



taking into account the time a pilot starts duty, rest time between flights and monthly and annual flying totals.

But the new proposals, which would in some cases have increased the maximum permitted single duty shift from 13hr 15min to 14hr, have been put on ice pending an announcement due today from the American Federal Aviation Administration.

The US proposals, based on extensive and rigorous research, are expected to set the standard for cockpit crew duty hours throughout the world well into the next century.

Surely this harmonisation of standards makes sense. Passengers need to know that no pilot, from any airline in the world, is working dangerously long hours.

For pilots to react in the hysterical fashion they so often accuse tabloid journalists of adopting helps nobody.

Does Balpa really believe that international safety authorities would deliberately introduce rules which would make aviation unsafe?

In its efforts to protect the interests of its pilots, many of whom earn around £30,000 a year — Balpa has demeaned itself by playing the safety card. Informed debate there must be. But playing on the fears of passengers is unacceptable.

## Laker returns to transatlantic holiday market

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

SIR Freddie Laker will today unveil detailed plans for his relaunch into the transatlantic travel business — 13 years after the collapse of the original Laker Airways.

Laker Vacations will offer more than 20,000 holidays in the United States using his new American-based airline Laker Airways Inc, which from next March will fly to Orlando up to four times a week from Gatwick, three times from Manchester and once a week from Prestwick. He also plans to operate services twice a week to the popular Florida seaside resort of Fort Lauderdale.

The airline will have 75,000 seats available each year, and return fares will range from £299 to £449 depending on the time of year. Sir Freddie claims confidently that the level of comfort and service on board will be "at least the equivalent of club class on other airlines".

Laker Vacations will sell seat only, fly-drive, villa, hotel and fly-cruise holidays and will fill about 100 of the 350 seats on each of the three McDonnell Douglas DC10 aircraft in the fleet, which is

being refurbished in America at a cost of £1.7 million.

The one-class service, to be called Regency — the same name he gave to his business-class cabin on the old airline — will be aimed mainly at tourists, both from America and from Britain. He has shunned business or first class because, he insists, the advent of teleconferencing — using video to link people from around the world — will soon do away with the need for most business travel.



Laker: starting Florida run

During the winter, at least one of the aircraft will operate from America to the Caribbean and South America, then switch to the Atlantic routes during the peak summer months.

Although now aged 73, white-haired and less agile than when he battled with British Airways and others over the collapse of his airline in the early 1980s, Sir Freddie has lost none of his enthusiasm for the business.

"I have only lost money in one year since the war," he announces with pride. "Everything has finally been settled from the legal actions, and I am just looking forward to running a transatlantic airline again."

For the past few years he has been operating regular services from the Bahamas to Miami and he plans to link these, together with additional flights to New Orleans, into the Orlando and Fort Lauderdale "hubs".

Sir Freddie's ambition is to hand over a successful airline to his son, also called Freddie, who is almost 18 and plans to study business management at university.



Giles Shepard: "People are willing to pay the price for a higher level of service"

## Putting on the Ritz

BY DAVID CHURCHILL

LONDON'S Ritz Hotel is to get a multimillion-pound facelift over the next two years from its new owners, the Monie Carlo-based Barclay brothers, who bought the Piccadilly landmark for £75 million recently.

The much-needed refurbishment of the hotel's 130 rooms, suites and public areas will be masterminded by Giles Shepard, who has just taken over as the Ritz's managing director.

Mr Shepard's appointment comes a year after he was ousted from a similar role at the Savoy Group of hotels. His departure followed a long campaign by Sir Rocco Forte, the chairman and chief executive, to take a more active role in running the

Savoy Group. Mr Shepard believes the outlook for London's top hotels is "particularly strong". "There is no shortage of demand for quality hotels in London," he says. "People and companies are willing to pay the price for a higher level of service, which we think we can provide."

Since he left the Savoy, Mr Shepard has concentrated on a number of directorships, including that of the prestigious Wentworth hotel and golf club. "I may have to give this up, however, in order to concentrate full-time on the Ritz," he says.

The renovation plans for the Ritz will be taken slowly so as not to disrupt guests and visitors to the hotel. Mr Shepard says the hotel, which

is 90 years old next May, needs new air-conditioning, and double-glazing in rooms facing Piccadilly. Other changes he hopes to oversee are the reintroduction of upmarket shops in the lobby and possibly a new bar area. "We'll give the place a bit of a spring-clean after Christmas and then take it from there," he says. "Our aim is to restore the Ritz to its full grandeur."

Another ex-Savoy graduate was yesterday named Hotelier of the Year by the magazine *Caterer & Hotelkeeper*. Mr Ricci Obertelli, general manager of the Dorchester Hotel, was awarded the title by his peers in the hotel industry.

Mr Obertelli joined the Dorchester in 1988.

## "Ski firm offers free passes

BY GRAHAM DUFFILL

INGHAM'S, which offered 26 chalets in the Alps for the first time this winter, is now giving free lift passes to all customers going on holiday from January 20 in an attempt to fill them. Paying at least £100 for every customer's lift-pass on a £400-£500 holiday is an expensive promotion.

Ingham's decision to offer chalets this winter surprised many as it had purchased the middle-market chalet specialist Bladen Lines earlier in the year, and is, effectively, competing against itself.

A spokeswoman for Ingham's says: "The lift pass offer is not a panic measure by any means."

Snow has fallen in Austria and Switzerland over the past two days benefiting those resorts which already had enough snow to open runs, but resorts in the southern Alps and France are still able to open only a few runs with the aid of snow cannons.

David Hearn, of the Ski Club of Great Britain, says: "A very stubborn area of high pressure has been sitting over

Europe preventing moisture laden air coming in from the Atlantic.

"Some parts of the Alps have got good skiing, especially Austria, where the low lying resorts have between 15cm and 30cm at valley level, and up to 80cm on the high slopes. Andorra and the Pyrenees have started well, Davos and Klosters are among the best in Switzerland, but the high French resorts, which you would expect to have early snow, are still struggling."

● Inghams 0181-780 4444

## In-flight sales get Air Miles

BY DAVID CHURCHILL

AIR MILES are now being given on all duty and tax-free purchases on British Airways flights as part of the airline's plans to expand its in-flight retail sales.

BA claims that already it is a major international retailer, earning more from its duty and tax-free sales than the £33.5m pre-tax profits reported last year by the Body Shop.

The airline is giving one Air Mile for every £5 spent on in-flight purchases. Air Miles can be redeemed for gifts as well as flights on BA: 100 Air Miles, equivalent to £500 of in-flight shopping, enables two-for-one weekend breaks to be taken at Thistle hotels or free admission to any Tussauds Group attraction, including Alton Towers and Chessington World of Adventures.

The minimum requirement for a free flight on BA is 450 Air Miles. This entitles the collector to a return economy flight to either Paris, Brussels or Jersey. Since the scheme was launched in 1988, some 3.5 million people have registered to collect Air Miles with more than 10,000 free flights taken each week.

BA says that the top selling duty or tax-free items on its aircraft in recent weeks have been gift packs of five miniature fragrances, at £24.50 and a Faber-Castell silver-plated pencil set costing £200. On Concorde a 1976 bottle of Scotch whisky costing £150 sells well.

BA is not alone in finding passengers are doing more in-flight shopping. Other scheduled airlines and charter carriers report rising demand.

## French strikes hit travellers

BY STEVE KEENAN



Unlucky strike: an egg-spattered policeman faces protesting workers in Paris

## Families play truant to cut cost

PARENTS are taking their children out of school early to get cheaper summer holidays in France next year, writes Steve Keenan.

The family-based camping and mobile-home market has seen bookings fall for the peak summer holiday periods — but rise sharply for June and early July departures. The cost of a two-week camping holiday in France rises from an average £550 for early July to £800 for late July and August. Families departing in June pay from £300 to £450 while in September, prices plummet to £200.

"People are booking June strongly — which is strange because we are a family market. It must mean people are planning to take children out of school," says John Baines, marketing manager of Keycamp, which is the third biggest operator in a market which saw 600,000 adults and children holiday in France last year. "With things as they are, it is a

good opportunity if parents can get a lower-priced holiday." The company has already been forced to cut peak season prices by 5 per cent for bookings made before January 16.

Brittany Ferries confirmed the trend for off-peak holidays in 1996. Operations manager David Longden says: "People are no longer willing to pay the considerable premiums that have been around in the high season. I don't think two weeks out of school affects a child's education."

In 1996, the six-week school holiday period generally begins on July 26 in England, with local variations. A Department for Education and Employment spokesman said yesterday that parents are allowed to apply to schools for dispensation to take their children on two weeks leave of absence for an annual summer holiday, although interference with a child's education should be avoided if possible.

BUSINESS travellers to France continue to suffer massive disruption, with rail and air services again affected today and tomorrow.

There will be no Eurostar trains to Paris for the sixth day running, and airlines expect widespread flight cancellations tomorrow. However, ferries and Le Shuttle are operating normally.

The 19-day-old action by public sector workers has cost the airlines and Eurostar dearly, with air traffic controllers and rail staff joining the dispute last weekend.

Eurostar has been forced to cancel 55 trains since Friday evening. None of its 11 Paris trains will run today, although the six to Brussels are unaffected.

The service is refunding travel or changing travel to a later date, as are the airlines. On Tuesday, one-third of British Airways' services were cancelled, but while near-normal services operated yesterday, BA expects further action from air traffic controllers tomorrow. "We are taking it from day to day," said a spokesman.

The dispute is also affecting regional flights. British Midland operates twice a day from Heathrow to Nice, but air traffic control action on Tuesday closed the Rheims air sector, forcing flights to re-route, causing delays. BA also cancelled seven regional services on Tuesday.

While the airlines and Eurostar suffer, the ferries and Le Shuttle are busy in the annual pre-Christmas shopping spree to France. There has been no disruption this week, except for a one-hour picket of the Tunnel entrance in France on Tuesday, which forced the cancellation of four shuttles.

The ferries went to court in Boulogne last week to obtain orders making protesters liable for losses following a 48-hour blockade of Calais. However, lightning action cannot be ruled out — the QE2 with 1,000 passengers on board could not call at Le Havre on Tuesday.

All visitors to France should check with their carrier before travelling: Eurostar, 0345 881881; Le Shuttle, 0990 333333; BA, 0345 222111; British Midland, 0345 554554; Air UK, 0345 666777; Air France, 0181-742 6600.

## South Africa booms

BY MICHAEL HAMLYN

More than ten million "bed-nights" were booked in South Africa by holidaymakers and businessmen in the first nine months of this year, according to the country's central statistical service.

The figures are well up on last year's 7.6 million bed-nights for the same period, and indicate a trend that will break all previous records for the full year.

More than half the overseas visitors came from Europe, mainly Britain and Germany, with 17 per cent from the rest of Africa and 15 per cent from the Far East.

This boom has encouraged Hyatt hotels to enter the country, and this month a £32 million Park Hyatt has opened in the Johannesburg suburb of Rosebank.

In Sandton, another upmarket northern suburb, work has started on a £38 million, 324-room hotel for Hilton International, and Stocks Hotels and Resorts plans a grand opening for its £24 million, 242-room Michelangelo Hotel next May.

Golden Tulip, the world's tenth biggest hotel group, has formed a South African operation to develop and operate 20 hotels in 1996 and 1997.

But Deon Viljoen, the head of the country's hotel association, warns there are still factors which could slow down the boom. One is a shortage of qualified staff, another the shortage of local investment funds and the need to encourage overseas investment.

"We cannot hide behind the exchange rate for any length of time," says Mr Viljoen.

COLLECT 30 TOKENS FOR A CHANCE TO WIN £20,000 FOR AN 80-DAY HOLIDAY



## Win a cruise to Puerto Rico

The Times and The Sunday Times are offering readers the chance to win one of 80 holidays for two, plus 10 per cent discounts, to a range of destinations throughout the world.

Today's 9-day holiday is a cruise to San Juan, capital of Puerto Rico, on board the Zenith, for two and worth £2,288. The ship will also call to the islands of St Thomas and Grenada and call at Guadeloupe plus La Guaira and Aruba.

Celebrity Cruises is also offering a 10% discount to Times readers on the 16-night Celebrity Classic programme aboard Zenith and Horizon; ports of call include the above, plus Barbados, Martinique, Antigua and the Dominican Republic.

DEPARTURES: Jan 5, 12, 19 and 26, Feb 2, 9, 16 and 23, Mar 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, Apr 5 and 12, Nov 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, Dec 6 and 13, 1996. The cost of today's holiday is from £1,034, down from £1,449 per person with our 10% discount.

To win today's holiday, answer the question below and phone our competition hotline: 0891 40 50 34 open until midnight tonight. The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply.

Q. What is the capital of Puerto Rico?

Callers are charged at 50p per minute cheap rate and 40p at all other times.

THE TIMES  
Around  
the World  
in 80 Days  
£20,000  
TOKEN 67

Celebrity Cruises  
ALLOW US TO EXCEED YOUR EXPECTATIONS  
Celebrity Cruises offers readers 10% discount on today's holiday and all the holidays featured this week. The price covers flights, all meals and entertainment on board.  
For a brochure call  
01369 707711



# Libel juries can hear submissions on amount of damages

## John v MGN Ltd

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Hirst  
(Judgment December 12)

It was rightly offensive to public opinion that a plaintiff should recover damages for injury to his reputation which were greater, perhaps by a significant factor, than the sum he might have been awarded for personal injuries rendering him helplessly crippled or infirm.

Changes of practice would be introduced to provide guidance for libel juries in performing their role of assessing compensatory damages, including enabling reference to be made to appropriate awards and brackets of awards. Reference might also be made to conventional personal injury awards, not as an attempt to equate awards of damages for personal injury with those for defamation, but so as to check the reasonableness of awards that such juries were proposing to make.

An award of exemplary damages should never exceed the minimum sum necessary to meet its underlying public purpose, namely, that the defendant should be punished, that tort should be shown not to pay and that others should be deterred from acting similarly.

The Court of Appeal so stated, allowing in part an appeal by MGN Ltd, publishers of the *Sunday Mirror* newspaper in which an article had been published on December 27 1992 in respect of which the plaintiff, Elton Hercules John, had brought an action for defamation.

The newspaper appealed from the jury's award of damages of a total sum of £380,000, comprising £75,000 compensatory damages, £275,000 exemplary damages, following a trial before Mr Justice Drake, sitting with a jury.

The Court of Appeal set aside the jury's award and, substituting its own figure, awarded the plaintiff the total sum of £750,000 comprising £25,000 compensatory damages and £500,000 exemplary damages. The court dismissed the newspaper's appeal against the judge's directions on compensatory and exemplary damages.

Mr Charles Gray, QC and Miss Heather Rogers for the newspaper; Mr Desmond Browne, QC and Mr David Parsons for Mr John.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, giving the judgment of the court, said that it was standard practice for plaintiffs in defamation actions to claim damages and

also an injunction against repetition of the publication complained of.

But it was the award of damages, not the grant of an injunction, which was the primary remedy which the law provided: the principles governing awards were accordingly of fundamental importance in ensuring that justice was done to plaintiffs and defendants and that account was taken of such public interests as might be involved.

Compensatory damages If defamation cases had been routinely tried by judges sitting alone there would doubtless have emerged, as in the field of personal injuries actions, since they had become in practice the exclusive preserve of judges, a more or less coherent framework of awards which would, while recognising the particular features of particular cases, ensure that broadly comparable cases led to broadly comparable awards.

The survival of jury trial in defamation actions had inhibited a similar development. Respect for the constitutional role of the jury in such actions and judicial reluctance to intrude into the area of decision-making reserved to the jury, had traditionally led judges presiding over defamation trials with juries to confine their jury directions to a statement of general principles, eschewing any specific guidance on the appropriate level of general damages in the particular case.

While some distinguished judges (see, for example, *dicta* of Lord Justice Diplock in *McCarey v Associated Newspapers Ltd* (No 2) (1964) 2 Q.B. 309) had considered that juries should be informed in broad terms of the conventional level of personal injury awards, not by way of analogy, but as a check on the reasonableness of the award they were considering, that had not been an authoritative statement (see *Broome v Cassell and Co Ltd* (1972) AC 1027, 1071).

Even in the rare case when a personal injury claim was to be tried by a jury, it was thought inappropriate that a jury should be informed of the conventional level of awards, as in *Word v James* (1964) 1 Q.B. 273, 302, a striking departure from the modern practice when judges were sitting alone.

Whatever the theoretical attractions of that approach, its practical disadvantages had become ever more manifest. A series of jury awards in sums wildly disproportionate to any damage conceivably suffered by the plaintiff had given

rise to serious and justified criticism of the procedures leading to such awards.

It had not been the fault of the judges, as they were bound to do, had confined themselves to broad directions of general principle, coupled with injunctions to the jury to be reasonable.

But they gave no guidance on what might be thought reasonable or unreasonable, and it was not altogether surprising that juries lacked an instinctive sense of where to pitch their awards. They were in the position of sheep on an unfenced common, with no shepherd.

The court referred to: 1 *Sutcliffe v Pressdram Ltd* (1991) 1 Q.B. 153, where the Court of Appeal had reaffirmed the traditional approach but had recommended trial judges to draw juries' attention to the purchasing power of the awards they were minded to make.

2 The enactment of section 82(2) of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 and to the introduction of Order 59, rule 1(4) of the Rules of the Supreme Court in its present form empowering the Court of Appeal to substitute its own figure on allowing an appeal from a jury award.

3 *Rantzen v Mirror Group Newspapers (No 2)* (1994) AC 670, where the Court of Appeal concluded that, although at that time reference should not be allowed to awards made by juries in previous cases, awards made by the Court of Appeal should on a different footing and would in time provide a corpus to which reference could be made in subsequent cases.

Mr Gray had said that the argument, advanced and rejected in the *Rantzen* case, on the permissibility of referring to levels of awards in personal injury cases, contending that various factors justified reconsideration of that ruling and a different result. 1 That the corpus of experience envisaged in *Rantzen* as a source of guidance had in practice scarcely developed, so that juries still received little assistance from that source.

2 That appeared to be grossly excessive awards continued to be made.

3 That there had been a change of view in the High Court of Australia, with the majority now in favour of permitting reference to personal injury awards in directing libel juries: see *Carson v John Fairfax & Sons Ltd* (1993) 69 ALJR 634; compare *Coyne v Citicorp Finance Ltd* (1991) 172 CLR 211.

The court referred to the reason

4 That reliance might be placed on article 10 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1953) (CERD 1953), which provided that everyone has the right to freedom of expression. *Guardian Newspapers Ltd* (No 2) (1990) 1 AC 109 and *Derbyshire County Council v Times Newspapers Ltd* (1993) AC 534 to coincide with English common law, and the decision of the European Court of Human Rights in *Tolstoy v United Kingdom* (The Times July 19, 1995).

The court was persuaded by that argument that the subject deserved reconsideration, despite the short period since the *Rantzen* case. There was continuing evidence of libel awards in sums which appeared so large as to bear no relation to the ordinary values of life.

It served no public purpose to encourage plaintiffs to regard a successful libel action as a risky though the process undoubtedly was, as a road to untaxed riches.

Nor was it healthy if any legal process failed to command the respect of lawyer and layman alike, as was regrettably true of the assessment of damages by libel juries.

The subject should be reconsidered. It was not a field in which the court was bound by previous authority (see *Sutcliffe v Pressdram Ltd* (at p178)) but it was necessary to review the arguments which had found favour in the court.

In considering criticisms of the present lack of guidance given to juries on the issue of compensatory damages, the court had examined four possible changes from present practice: 1 Reference to awards by other juries in comparable defamation actions.

2 Reference to awards approved or disapproved by the Court of Appeal.

The court agreed with the ruling in *Rantzen* that reference to such awards might be made. As and when a framework of awards was established that would provide a valuable guide to plaintiffs, that such a framework would not be established quickly.

3 Reference to damages in actions for personal injuries.

The court referred to the reason

given in *Broome v Cassell* for rejecting comparison with awards in such cases. That reasoning would weigh strongly against any attempt to equate damages for personal injuries with those for defamation.

It would not weigh so heavily, if at all, against reference to conventional levels of award for personal injuries as a check on the reasonableness of a proposed award for defamation.

In the *Rantzen* case the Court of Appeal essentially adopted the approach in *Broome v Cassell* in concluding that there was no satisfactory way in which conventional awards in personal injury actions could be used to provide guidance for an award in a defamation action.

Much depended, the court now thought, on what was meant by guidance: it was one thing to say, and the court agreed, that there could be no precise equiparation between a serious libel and, say, serious brain damage.

But it was another to point out to a jury considering the award of damages for a serious libel, that the maximum conventional award for pain and suffering and loss of amenity, jury might properly be asked to consider whether the injury to reputation of which the plaintiff complained should fairly justify any greater compensation.

The conventional compensatory scales in personal injury cases had to be taken to represent fair compensation unless and until those scales were amended by the courts or Parliament.

It was rightly offensive to public opinion that a defamation plaintiff should recover damages for injury to reputation greater, perhaps by a significant factor, than if that same plaintiff had been rendered a helpless cripple or an insensate vegetable.

The time had come when judges, and counsel should be free to draw the attention of juries to those comparisons.

It was rightly offensive to public opinion that a defamation plaintiff should recover damages for injury to reputation greater, perhaps by a significant factor, than if that same plaintiff had been rendered a helpless cripple or an insensate vegetable.

The time had come when judges, and counsel should be free to draw the attention of juries to those comparisons.

It was rightly offensive to public opinion that a defamation plaintiff should recover damages for injury to reputation greater, perhaps by a significant factor, than if that same plaintiff had been rendered a helpless cripple or an insensate vegetable.

The time had come when judges, and counsel should be free to draw the attention of juries to those comparisons.

It was rightly offensive to public opinion that a defamation plaintiff should recover damages for injury to reputation greater, perhaps by a significant factor, than if that same plaintiff had been rendered a helpless cripple or an insensate vegetable.

The time had come when judges, and counsel should be free to draw the attention of juries to those comparisons.

It was rightly offensive to public opinion that a defamation plaintiff should recover damages for injury to reputation greater, perhaps by a significant factor, than if that same plaintiff had been rendered a helpless cripple or an insensate vegetable.

The time had come when judges, and counsel should be free to draw the attention of juries to those comparisons.

It was rightly offensive to public opinion that a defamation plaintiff should recover damages for injury to reputation greater, perhaps by a significant factor, than if that same plaintiff had been rendered a helpless cripple or an insensate vegetable.

The time had come when judges, and counsel should be free to draw the attention of juries to those comparisons.

It was rightly offensive to public opinion that a defamation plaintiff should recover damages for injury to reputation greater, perhaps by a significant factor, than if that same plaintiff had been rendered a helpless cripple or an insensate vegetable.

The time had come when judges, and counsel should be free to draw the attention of juries to those comparisons.

It was rightly offensive to public opinion that a defamation plaintiff should recover damages for injury to reputation greater, perhaps by a significant factor, than if that same plaintiff had been rendered a helpless cripple or an insensate vegetable.

The time had come when judges, and counsel should be free to draw the attention of juries to those comparisons.

It was rightly offensive to public opinion that a defamation plaintiff should recover damages for injury to reputation greater, perhaps by a significant factor, than if that same plaintiff had been rendered a helpless cripple or an insensate vegetable.

The time had come when judges, and counsel should be free to draw the attention of juries to those comparisons.

It was rightly offensive to public opinion that a defamation plaintiff should recover damages for injury to reputation greater, perhaps by a significant factor, than if that same plaintiff had been rendered a helpless cripple or an insensate vegetable.

The time had come when judges, and counsel should be free to draw the attention of juries to those comparisons.

It was rightly offensive to public opinion that a defamation plaintiff should recover damages for injury to reputation greater, perhaps by a significant factor, than if that same plaintiff had been rendered a helpless cripple or an insensate vegetable.

The time had come when judges, and counsel should be free to draw the attention of juries to those comparisons.

It was rightly offensive to public opinion that a defamation plaintiff should recover damages for injury to reputation greater, perhaps by a significant factor, than if that same plaintiff had been rendered a helpless cripple or an insensate vegetable.

The time had come when judges, and counsel should be free to draw the attention of juries to those comparisons.

It was rightly offensive to public opinion that a defamation plaintiff should recover damages for injury to reputation greater, perhaps by a significant factor, than if that same plaintiff had been rendered a helpless cripple or an insensate vegetable.

The time had come when judges, and counsel should be free to draw the attention of juries to those comparisons.

4 Reference to an appropriate award and an appropriate bracket.

It had been the invariable practice in the past that neither counsel nor the judge could make any suggestion to the jury as to an appropriate award.

That practice was in line with the practice that had been followed in personal injury actions when tried with a jury. In *Word v James* the Court of Appeal had given reasons why figures should not be mentioned: see also *Sutcliffe v Pressdram Ltd* (at p190).

The court had come to the conclusion that the reasons given were unconvincing. In personal injury actions it was now commonplace for the advocates on both sides to address the judge in some detail on the quantum of the appropriate award. The judge was not in any way bound by the bracket suggested but found it helpful as a check on his own provisional assessment.

The court could see no reason why the parties' respective counsel in a libel action should not indicate to the jury the level of award which they respectively contended to be appropriate, nor why the judge in directing the jury should not give a similar indication.

The plaintiff would not wish the jury to think that his main object was to make money rather than to clear his name. The defendant would not wish to add insult to injury by underlining the seriousness of the libel.

Thus the figures suggested by responsible counsel were likely to reflect the upper and lower bounds of a realistic bracket. The jury had to make up their own mind and had to be directed to do so. They would not be bound by the submission of counsel or the judge's indication.

If they made an award outside the upper or lower bounds, and the award were the subject of appeal, real weight had to be given to the possibility that their judgment was to be preferred to that of the judge.

Those modest but important changes of practice would not undermine the existing constitutional position of the libel jury. Historically their significance had not lain in their role of assessing damages but of deciding whether the publication complained of was a libel or not.

The changes now favoured by the court would buttress the constitutional role of the libel jury by rendering their proceedings more rational and so more acceptable to public opinion.

But his unlawful conduct had to

be taken into account.

It was rightly offensive to public opinion that a defamation plaintiff should recover damages for injury to reputation greater, perhaps by a significant factor, than if that same plaintiff had been rendered a helpless cripple or an insensate vegetable.

The time had come when judges, and counsel should be free to draw the attention of juries to those comparisons.

It was rightly offensive to public opinion that a defamation plaintiff should recover damages for injury to reputation greater, perhaps by a significant factor, than if that same plaintiff had been rendered a helpless cripple or an insensate vegetable.

The time had come when judges, and counsel should be free to draw the attention of juries to those comparisons.

It was rightly offensive to public opinion that a defamation plaintiff should recover damages for injury to reputation greater, perhaps by a significant factor, than if that same plaintiff had been rendered a helpless cripple or an insensate vegetable.

The time had come when judges, and counsel should be free to draw the attention of juries to those comparisons.

It was rightly offensive to public opinion that a defamation plaintiff should recover damages for injury to reputation greater, perhaps by a significant factor, than if that same plaintiff had been rendered a helpless cripple or an insensate vegetable.

The time had come when judges, and counsel should be free to draw the attention of juries to those comparisons.

It was rightly offensive to public opinion that a defamation plaintiff should recover damages for injury to reputation greater, perhaps by a significant factor, than if that same plaintiff had been rendered a helpless cripple or an insensate vegetable.

The time had come when judges, and counsel should be free to draw the attention of juries to those comparisons.

It was rightly offensive to public opinion that a defamation plaintiff should recover damages for injury to reputation greater, perhaps by a significant factor, than if that same plaintiff had been rendered a helpless cripple or an insensate vegetable.

The time had come when judges, and counsel should be free to draw the attention of juries to those comparisons.

It was rightly offensive to public opinion that a defamation plaintiff should recover damages for injury to reputation greater, perhaps by a significant factor, than if that same plaintiff had been rendered a helpless cripple or an insensate vegetable.

The time had come when judges, and counsel should be free to draw the attention of juries to those comparisons.

It was rightly offensive to public opinion that a defamation plaintiff should recover damages for injury to reputation greater, perhaps by a significant factor, than if that same plaintiff had been rendered a helpless cripple or an insensate vegetable.

The time had come when judges, and counsel should be free to draw the attention of juries to those comparisons.

It was rightly offensive to public opinion that a defamation plaintiff should recover damages for injury to reputation greater, perhaps by a significant factor, than if that same plaintiff had been rendered a helpless cripple or an insensate vegetable.

The time had come when judges, and counsel should be free to draw the attention of juries to those comparisons.

It was rightly offensive to public opinion that a defamation plaintiff should recover damages for injury to reputation greater, perhaps by a significant factor, than if that same plaintiff had been rendered a helpless cripple or an insensate vegetable.

The time had come when judges, and counsel should be free to draw the attention of juries to those comparisons.

It was rightly offensive to public opinion that a defamation plaintiff should recover damages for injury to reputation greater, perhaps by a significant factor, than if that same plaintiff had been rendered a helpless cripple or an insensate vegetable.

Exemplary damages

The court referred to *Duncan and Neill on Defamation* (second edition (1983) paragraph 18.27) which remained a correct summary of the relevant law and had not been challenged in argument.

The court had been reminded by the newspaper that the award of exemplary damages was regarded as exceptional and in some ways anomalous, and that, since article 10 of the European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms required any restriction on freedom of expression to be prescribed by law and necessary in a democratic society for the protection of reputation, the conditions for making such an award were to be closely scrutinised and rigorously applied.

Certain aspects of the conditions established by authority had been drawn to the court's attention. 1 The state of mind of the defendant publisher, in particular, with regard to recklessness.

Having reviewed the authorities the court stated that the crucial ingredient of that state of mind was a lack of honest belief in the truth of what was published. That was what made the publisher's conduct so reprehensible as to be deserving of punishment.

Clearly the means of the defendant were relevant to the assessment of damages, as were his degree of fault and the amount of profit he might be shown to have made from his unlawful conduct.

The authorities gave judges no help in directing juries on the quantum of exemplary damages. Since such damages were analogous to a criminal penalty, and although paid to the plaintiff played no part in compensating him, principle required that an award should never exceed the minimum sum necessary to meet the underlying public purpose: that of punishing the defendant, showing that tort did not pay and deterring others.

The same result was achieved by the application of article 10. Freedom of speech should not be restricted by awards of exemplary damages save to the extent shown to be strictly necessary for the protection of reputations.

While the European Convention was not a free-standing source of law in the United Kingdom, there was no conflict or discrepancy between article 10 and the common law.

Article 10 reinforced and buttressed the conclusions reached by the court. Those conclusions were reached independently of the Convention, and would have been reached even if the Convention did not exist.

Solicitors: Mr Martin Cruddace, Canary Wharf; Mr Chalmers Bischoff.

appellant's personality disorder for consideration as a relevant characteristic. It raised also the element of battered woman syndrome as a further relevant characteristic.

What characteristics of a defendant should be attributed by the jury to the national reasonable person, and how far the judge should go in assisting the jury to identify such characteristics were issues which had been clarified in a number of decisions subsequently to the appellant's trial and, indeed, to her first appeal. *R v Humphreys* (unreported, July 7, 1995, CA) and *R v Morhall* (The Times July 21, 1995) [1995] 3 W.L.R. 330 made it clear that mental as well as physical characteristics should be taken into account. Moreover, a judge should give

directions to the jury what, on the evidence, was capable of amounting to a relevant characteristic.

Their Lordships considered that, if the trial judge had had the assistance of those authorities and of the further evidence their Lordships had had before them, he should and would have given the jury directions as to the two characteristics now relied on.

Their Lordships concluded that the fresh evidence, and the clarification of the law to which they had referred cast doubt on the basis of the jury's verdict. They could not, therefore, be sure that the verdict was safe and satisfactory.

Solicitors: B. M. Birnberg & Co; Crown Prosecution Service, Warwickshire.

directions to the jury what, on the evidence, was capable of amounting to a relevant characteristic.

Their Lordships considered that, if the trial judge had had the assistance of those authorities and of the further evidence their Lordships had had before them, he should and would have given the jury directions as to the two characteristics now relied on.

Their Lordships concluded that the fresh evidence, and the clarification of the law to which they had referred cast doubt on the basis of the jury's verdict. They could not, therefore, be sure that the verdict was safe and satisfactory.

Solicitors: B. M. Birnberg & Co; Crown Prosecution Service, Warwickshire.

directions to the jury what, on the evidence, was capable of amounting to a relevant characteristic.

Their Lordships considered that, if the trial judge had had the assistance of those authorities and of the further evidence their Lordships had had before them, he should and would have given the jury directions as to the two characteristics now relied on.

Their Lordships concluded that the fresh evidence, and the clarification of the law to which they had referred cast doubt on the basis of the jury's verdict. They could not, therefore, be sure that the verdict was safe and satisfactory.

Solicitors: B. M. Birnberg & Co; Crown Prosecution Service, Warwickshire.

directions to the jury what, on the evidence, was capable of amounting to a relevant characteristic.

Their Lordships considered that, if the trial judge had had the assistance of those authorities and of the further evidence their Lordships had had before them, he should and would have given the jury directions as to the two characteristics now relied on.

Their Lordships concluded that the fresh evidence, and the clarification of the law to which they had referred cast doubt on the basis of the jury's verdict. They could not, therefore, be sure that the verdict was safe and satisfactory.

Solicitors: B. M. Birnberg & Co; Crown Prosecution Service, Warwickshire.

directions to the jury what, on the evidence, was capable of amounting to a relevant characteristic.

Their Lordships considered that, if the trial judge had had the assistance of those authorities and of the further evidence their Lordships had had before them, he should and would have given the jury directions as to the two characteristics now relied on.

## Battered woman syndrome is a relevant consideration for a murder jury

### Regina v Thornton

Before Lord Taylor of Gossforth, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Hirst and Mrs Justice Ebsworth  
(Judgment December 13)

The battered woman syndrome could be a relevant characteristic for the jury's consideration in a murder trial.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so stated in ordering a retrial of Sara Elizabeth Thornton, who had been convicted at Birmingham Crown Court (Mr Justice Judge and a jury) in 1990 of murdering her husband on June 13 1989, by stabbing him with a kitchen knife. Her appeal in 1991 had been dismissed, and on a reference by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, the Court of Appeal quashed her conviction and ordered the retrial.

The Lord Chief Justice, giving the reserved judgment of the court, said that their Lordships had been told that medical knowledge had progressed considerably since the hearing of the appeal in 1990.

Further medical evidence raised her personality disorder for consideration as a relevant characteristic and also raised for consideration the element of battered woman syndrome as a further relevant characteristic for a jury's consideration.

Mr Michael Mansfield, QC, who did not appear below, and Mr Edward Fitzgerald, QC, for the appellant; Mr Brian Escott QC, QC, for the Crown.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that at trial the defendant did not seek a verdict of not guilty but relied on diminished responsibility to found a verdict of manslaughter.

The defence did not rely on provocation. On the evidence presented to the jury their Lordships did not consider that the decision to concentrate the defence on diminished responsibility could be faulted.

There was no doubt that the appellant had been subjected over a period to violence and abuse by her alcoholic husband and, on her evidence, abuse and threats were

levelled at her shortly before the stabbing.

In those circumstances the trial judge considered that he had a duty to leave provocation as an issue for the jury's consideration. He had been clearly right to do so: see *Bullard v The Queen* (1987) AC 635 and *R v Rostler* (1992) 95 Cr App R 326.

The duty to leave provocation to the jury, even when the defence had not relied on it and even when in some cases they might regard it as an embarrassment or distraction, created problems for the jury.

On the first, unsuccessful, appeal criticisms had been made of the trial judge's direction on provocation. Principally it had been submitted that the judge was wrong to direct the jury that, for the defence to succeed, the provocative words or conduct had to be readily found by the defendant "a sudden and temporary loss of self-control".

In the present appeal, the established principle of law had quite rightly been challenged again.

However, since reliance was placed on the appellant's suffering from a battered woman syndrome, their Lordships thought it right to return the principle a defendant, even if suffering from that syndrome, could not succeed in relying on provocation unless the jury considered she suffered or might have suffered a sudden and temporary loss of self-control at the time of the killing.

That was not to say that a battered woman syndrome had no relevance to the defence of provocation. The severity of such a syndrome and the extent to which it might have affected a particular defendant would no doubt vary and was for the jury to consider. But it might be relevant in two ways.

1 It might form an important background to whatever triggered the defendant's conduct had to be readily found by the defendant "a sudden and temporary loss of self-control" by a minor incident if the defendant had endured abuse over a period, on the "last straw" basis.

2 Depending on the medical evidence, the syndrome might have affected the defendant's personality so as to constitute a significant characteristic relevant to the second question the jury had to consider in relation to provocation.

What was new on the present appeal? Mr Mansfield had sought leave to adduce further medical evidence, put before the court in written form. Its effect was to raise for consideration in relation to the defence of provocation two characteristics which it was suggested, the appellant possessed at the relevant time.

The first was her personality disorder. The second was the effect of the deceased's abuse over a period on her mental make-up.

The first was her personality disorder. The second was the effect of the deceased's abuse over a period on her mental make-up.

The first was her personality disorder. The second was the effect of the deceased's abuse over a period on her mental make-up.

The first was her personality disorder. The second was the effect of the deceased's abuse







Lack of encouragement for bowlers evokes memories of timeless Test

## England pitched into thankless task

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK  
IN DURBAN

HAVING been delivered, in Johannesburg, by their captain's prodigious powers of concentration and Jack Russell's animal cunning, England still have to find conditions in which even they can bowl South Africa out twice. It is not going to be at all easy.

If there is hope that it may happen in the third Test match, which starts here in Durban today, that is because, yesterday, there was just a tinge of green in the pitch. But it will very soon be gone and it is not as though England have spinners of the calibre of Fred Titmus and David Allen, who won them the last Test match they played at Kingsmead, 30 years ago.

Generally speaking, pitches have got less interesting since then and it is almost certainly fanciful to think that there will

Debbie Stock and Clare Taylor, the last pair, defied India for more than three hours to force a draw for the England women's cricket team — and clinch the series — in the final Test match in Hyderabad yesterday. England, who drew the first Test and won the second by two runs, went into the final day chasing an unlikely target of 302. They finished on 182 for nine. Jan Brittin, the opener, was the top scorer with 68.

be much pace in today's. Only last year, I watched as Australia spent 205 overs bowling South Africa out on it (Warne 55-20-42-4). Tedious stuff it was, with South Africa, under Kepler Wessels, content simply to hang on to what they already had — a half share in the series.

To some extent, of course, it is incumbent upon old players to say that pitches are not what they used to be. I well remember Alan Melville saying that there was a time when this one at Kingsmead should have been like marble and that he could have seen to shave in it. George Headley and Victor Richardson chose much the same words at Kingston and Adelaide respectively. But that was a long time ago. Fewer hands are turned to the "polishing" of Test pitches these days, and that is probably just as well.

It was one of Durban's most cosseted specimens that put an



The England hierarchy of Alec Stewart, Michael Atherton and Raymond Illingworth discuss team selection yesterday. Photograph: Graham Morris

end, once and for all, to timeless Test matches. The match in question, the fifth and last between England and South Africa in March 1939, was timeless because the series was still open. In the event, it was abandoned as a draw after ten run-drenched days to allow the England team to get to Cape Town in time to catch their ship home.

England's captain at the time was the majestic Walter Hammond, who was to come back to settle in Durban in 1951, married by then to Sybil, whom he had met on the 1938-39 tour. As a correspondent with the MCC side to South Africa in 1956-57 and again in 1964-65, one therefore had the chance to see something of

him. On the first of these tours, that was pretty well the extent of it: he was as distant a figure then as he had been in his playing days.

Eight years later, he was a changed man: affable, helpful and communicative. There were said to be medical reasons for this metamorphosis, resulting from head injuries suffered in a serious motor accident in 1960. Afterwards, he talked freely of the timeless Test and of how England made less effort than they might have done to score the 696 they needed to win it before it was time to be off to Cape Town. When play was abandoned, England were 654 for four.

It was their way, Hammond

said, of debunking such matches. By 1964, he was Sports Administrator at Natal University and even playing, and seeming to enjoy, the occasional game of cricket. In what turned out to be the last of them, he batted briefly with Denis Compton, who was in South Africa on behalf of *The Sunday Express*. Within a few months, Hammond had died of a heart attack, aged 62.

It was in that timeless Test match that Bill Edrich's Test career was given life. When he went in during England's second innings, his Test scores had been 5, 0, 10, 12, 28, 12, 4, 10, 0, 6 and 1 — 88 runs at an average of eight, sometimes going in first, sometimes third and sometimes sixth. But

Hammond stood by him. He liked the cut of his jib and talked his fellow selectors (there was no "Godfather" in the England set-up in those days) into giving him another chance in Durban. With the courage that he was to show soon afterwards, as a bomber pilot in the Second World War, Edrich made 219 and went on to finish with a Test average of exactly 40.

Edrich was not as good a batsman as Mark Ramprakash. Well, let me put that another way. He was not as naturally talented a batsman — nothing like. What made him the Test stalwart he became was his temperament. The shot to which Ramprakash got out in the second

innings at Johannesburg last week was manifestly tense. He seemed quite prostrated with nerves.

Having said that, I believe Ramprakash will yet make more runs for England than Edrich's 2,440. At 26, he has plenty of time ahead of him and he should have been at No 5 or 6 in the first two Tests of this series, not at first wicket down. He is much too good to despair of. Happily, John Crawley is very good, too, and even younger. It will be disappointing, and surprising, if the *Wisden* of 2010 does not record a string of notable partnerships for England between those, by then, two old troupers, Crawley and Ramprakash.

## Headley stays calm during tough initiation

Pat Gibson on the bowling discovery who enlivened a difficult tour for England A

THE sun was shining from a cloudless sky, the series of five-day international matches had been won and the England A players were in good spirits as they set off for a relaxing round of golf. Half an hour later, most were back at the hotel. There were only two sets of clubs available.

It was a classic example of the kind of frustration they have had to learn to live with on their tour of Pakistan. As a character-building exercise, it has been hugely successful. Whether it has done as much for their development as cricketers is more debatable.

Unfortunately, it has sometimes been just as exasperating trying to get a net, let alone a decent game of cricket, because of damp pitches, bad light and an acute shortage of practice facilities, all of which have made it difficult to pursue the twin objectives of winning matches and giving all the players the opportunity to show that they have it in them to play Test cricket.

This is partly the fault of the itinerary. The Test and County Cricket Board should have taken a tip from Alexander the Great, a conspicuously successful touring captain in these parts. He made the trip from north to south. England A have done it in the opposite direction, in the middle of the Pakistan winter, and they have been plagued by inclement weather and shortening days for the past fortnight.

In the circumstances, they have done the best they could. Nasser Hussain, the captain, has achieved his aim of winning the series and John Emburey, the cricket manager, believes he has learnt enough about the players to be able to mark Raymond Illingworth's card.

Hussain, technically a better player now than when he was winning his seven England caps, was the most consistent batsman and must be in line for a recall, although he betrayed his old edginess by running himself out in the final international and precipitating the crisis that almost cost him his series victory.

The other two batsmen with Test experience, Gallian and Knight, also looked the part.

Both made centuries in international matches and, if Gallian seems the more solid of the two with his tighter method and cool temperament, there is no questioning Knight's desire.

The most significant discovery came on the bowling front. Headley was called into the squad only because Martin was required for the senior tour. With eight wickets in his first four-day match, it was impossible to leave him out and he finished with 25 first-class wickets at 15 runs each.

"He has been phenomenal," Hussain said, "and I don't see any reason why he should not go on to play Test cricket. He is a real trier who just keeps running in and bowling with machine-like rhythm."

The other fast bowler, Giddins, had his moments too, but he seems to lack the discipline needed to make it to



Headley: revelation

the highest level. He could learn from Muntun, who did precisely what was expected of him. Salisbury and Stump also bowled well at times, but there were few opportunities for Udal, who has to wait until the three-match one-day international series starts here tomorrow to remind the selectors of his presence. His prospects improved yesterday when Salisbury was granted an early release from the tour because of the sudden death of his grandmother.

Finally, there is Emburey, who could hardly have made a better impression in his first management job. "He has been brilliant," Hussain said. "The players respect and listen to what he has to say."

## Gillingham poised to steal Sheffield show

By CRAIG LORD

NEIL WILLEY and Ian Wilson, silver medal-winners at the short-course world championships, must prove their worth at the national winter swimming championships in Sheffield.

While Nick Gillingham, 29 next month, threatens to steal the show by marking his return to serious competition with a world-record attempt at 200 metres breaststroke, Willey and Wilson, despite their inspired performances in Brazil two weeks ago in, respectively, the 100 metres backstroke and the 1,500 metres freestyle, will start as challengers. The challenged are those national champions who opted to forfeit competing in Rio de Janeiro for the prospect of longer-term Olympic gains next summer.

Willey, 19, came within 0.08sec of Martin Harris's national record to finish runner-up in the 100 metres backstroke in Rio. He is determined to end Harris's five-year reign as national sprint backstroke champion.

After Rio, Wilson, 25 next

week, now shares a best time of 14min 49sec with Graeme Smith. Britain's No 1 over 1,500 metres freestyle. Their race may be the longest, and possibly closest, of the championships, but it will no longer be the last, the traditional race schedule changed for broadcast purposes.

For the first time, the first day of the four-day racing programme today will produce no champions, all sessions taken over by heats. Finals will be staged early on Friday, with a Friday evening heats session resulting in Saturday morning finals.

Carla Guerts, of Holland, is likely to be a lonely winner in the distance freestyle events. Sarah Hardcastle, who best her to become world champion at 800 metres freestyle, having stayed in Brazil on honeymoon. Mark Foster, Britain's top sprint freestyle swimmer, will be making first appearance since the French swimming federation alleged that a test taken from Foster in July had shown traces of cannabis.

## Training injury delays title defence by Benn

THE defence by Nigel Benn of his World Boxing Council super-middleweight title against Thulani Malinga, of South Africa, has been switched from January 20 to March 9. The contest, which is now scheduled to take place in either Newcastle or Nottingham, has been delayed to allow Benn time to regain fitness after sustaining a shoulder injury during training for the contest.

It will be the fourth attempt at capturing the championship by Malinga, 36. He had a ten-round battle with Benn in 1992. Benn won the bout on a disputed points decision that Malinga has called the worst given against him.

## Shaw secures place

HOCKEY: John Shaw, of Southgate, has filled the last place in the Great Britain selection for the Olympic qualifying tournament in Barcelona next month. The squad leaves this weekend for a training camp in Cairo and matches against Egypt, on December 20 and 21. Further preparation in January will include two matches each against Italy and Malaysia.

## Syed leads resistance

TABLE TENNIS: England slumped to a 4-3 defeat against Germany in Hastings, but made the visitors fight all the way for their European men's league super division victory. Matthew Syed, of Berkshire, played superbly to defeat Steffen Fetzner, the Germany No 2 and Richard Prause, the No 5. In the women's match, also against Germany, England lost 4-0.

## Auld enemy clash

CURLING: England and Scotland will meet today in the quarter-finals of the European championship at Grindelwald, Switzerland. Scotland qualified by beating Finland 8-2 and finishing in second place in their group behind an unbeaten Norway. Alistair Burns's mainly Glasgow-based England team finished third in their group after beating Sweden 6-5.

THE TIMES  
SNOWLINE  
0891 333 568  
24hr skiing information  
direct from resorts in  
AUSTRIA • FRANCE • SWITZERLAND  
REST OF EUROPE • AMERICA • CANADA  
ITALY • SPAIN • ANDALUSIA  
ROMANIA • BULGARIA  
or for a faxed report:  
0891 662 258  
Dial the above number from a  
telexphone linked to a fax machine  
WEATHERLINE  
0891 333 462  
Comprehensive outlook in the skiing  
areas for the week ahead  
The 100 Best of Great Britain  
17th Essex Square, London E2 7RQ  
Call 020 3376 0000  
Options at all times

THE TIMES  
SNOWLINE  
0891 333 568  
24hr skiing information  
direct from resorts in  
AUSTRIA • FRANCE • SWITZERLAND  
REST OF EUROPE • AMERICA • CANADA  
ITALY • SPAIN • ANDALUSIA  
ROMANIA • BULGARIA  
or for a faxed report:  
0891 662 258  
Dial the above number from a  
telexphone linked to a fax machine  
WEATHERLINE  
0891 333 462  
Comprehensive outlook in the skiing  
areas for the week ahead  
The 100 Best of Great Britain  
17th Essex Square, London E2 7RQ  
Call 020 3376 0000  
Options at all times

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Sometimes, when you are declarer in a no-trump contract, the defence lead your strongest suit. To make the best of it, you may have to conceal your strength until later in the hand. This is a good example, played by Liz Brinig in a Swiss Teams' final.

Dealer South	North - South game	IMPs
♠ A Q 6 5 ♥ Q J 10 8 6 ♦ 8 2 ♣ J 9	♠ 10 9 7 ♥ K 9 7 5 4 ♦ 5 ♣ K 10 3 2	
♠ J 4 3 2 ♥ 3 ♦ J 10 8 3 ♣ A Q 5 4	♠ K 6 ♥ A 2 ♦ A K Q 9 7 4 ♣ 8 7 6	

Contract: 3 NT by South

Lead: Jack of Diamonds

As South, Liz Brinig opened 1 NT (15-17). It is not a classical no-trumps opening, but concealing a strong suit can often work well in the play. After North showed his hearts (via a transfer) and spades, South finished as declarer in 3 NT.

The lead suggested that diamonds were not breaking, so it seemed as if the only legitimate way of making the contract was if East started with precisely king doubleton of hearts. Declarer decided that this was too unlikely a layout to play form but saw another chance, so long as diamonds were no worse than 4-1.

When East contributed the five of diamonds on the first trick, she followed smoothly with the seven. Of course, this play was going to look pretty foolish if the diamonds were breaking all along and the defence cashed their club tricks. However, West continued with another diamond

and she now had nine tricks.

□ The 1996 Macallan International bridge pairs championship, in association with *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, will be played at The White House Hotel, Regent's Park, London on January 24, 25 and 26. Several world champions are among the 16 pairs who will be playing. You can watch at the tables or in the Viewgraph theatre.

Session times and prices are: Wednesday 5.30pm to 11.00, £12.50; Thursday noon to 4.00, £10.00; 5.30 to 1.00, £12.50; full day, £15.00; Friday 12.30pm to 6.00, £15.00. Season ticket for all sessions, £30. These are available from The Macallan Box Office, 31 Queens Road, Mortlake, London, SW14 8PH (tel: 0181-878 5844).

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in *Sport* and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

SERRE  
a. The Peruvian uplands  
b. A prig  
c. Compact

TORA  
a. A harebeest  
b. A samurai war-cry  
c. A sweet potato

ZIBIB  
a. An Egyptian gown  
b. Raisin brandy  
c. A Scythian crossbow

WEEKSITE  
a. An American caravan park  
b. A hebdomadal tenancy  
c. Soft yellow crystals

Answers on page 46

## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

## Kasparov's chance

When Garry Kasparov, the world champion, faced the Fritz/Pentium computer in Munich last year, he suffered an unexpected setback in a game where his usually victorious sacrifices foundered on the computer's solid defence. Subsequently, the Fritz/Pentium won the world championship for computers in Hong Kong. Therefore, the two-game match between Kasparov and the computer held in London yesterday can legitimately be regarded as the main v machine world chess championship.

Here is the sensational game that Kasparov lost to the Fritz/Pentium in Munich and for which he was seeking revenge.

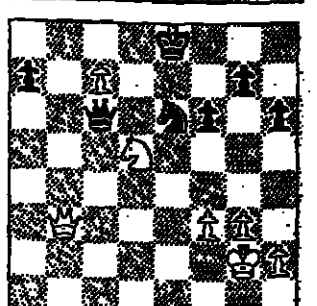
White: Garry Kasparov  
Black: Fritz/Pentium  
Munich 1994

Queen's Gambit Accepted	
1 e3	d5
2 c4	dxc4
3 Bxc4	e5
4 d4	exd4
5 exd4	Bc5+
6 Nc3	Nf6
7 Nf3	O-O
8 O-O	Bg4
9 h3	Bh5
10 g4	Bg6
11 Ne5	Nc6
12 Bg3	Nb5
13 Qe2	Nc7
14 f4	Nb6
15 Bb3	Bd3
16 Qd3	Bd1
17 Rd1	0-0
18 f5	Qc7
19 f6	Qxb5
20 Qg7	Qc7
21 Ne4	Nc5
22 Bxd5	Qxd5
23 Ng3	Kg8
24 Nf5	Rac8
25 Qf2	Rc4
26 Nf6+	Kf8
27 Bxg7	R8
28 Nf5	Rg8

## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Zukertort - Englisch, London, 1883. In this position, White found an ingenious winning continuation based on an eventual knight fork. Can you do as well?



Solution on page 46















## RACING 43

REPLACEMENT IN THE WINGS AS PRESSURE MOUNTS ON McCLOY

## SPORT

THURSDAY DECEMBER 14 1995

## RUGBY UNION 46

ROWELL CALLS ON ENGLAND TO TURN THE TIDE

Fickle weather forces Illingworth to delay final selection of bowlers

# England blown off course by wind of change

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN DURBAN

STRONG winds howled into Durban off the Indian Ocean yesterday, blowing the certainty out of the England strategy for the third Test against South Africa. The gusting wind cleared the clouds and brought strong sunshine to dry and brown the Kingsmead pitch like a cake in an oven, leaving England no option but to wait until breakfast this morning before finalising their side.

All that Raymond Illingworth, the tour manager, would confirm was that Mark Ramprakash and Darren Cough are not under consideration. The former is ill, the latter injured, though neither would have played anyway. The remaining 14 are in contention — even Mike Watkinson, whose chance of making the XI depends, like so much else, on the weather.

Conditions in Durban are as fickle as on any Test ground in the world. Some put it down to the shifting winds, others to the fumes, but the crucial factor is that when the cloud cover is low and the humidity high, nobody would be willing to bat.

"It can be a nightmare playing here," Bob Woolmer, the South Africa coach, said. "Things change so quickly that you always want to name your team after the toss."

England will not be allowed that privilege, but they will correctly leave selection as late as possible, within the unusu-

al parameter of play starting at 9.35am local time because of the short Natal evenings. The six batsmen, including John Crawley, back at No 3, and Robin Smith, back in the city of his upbringing, are inked into the side, so four bowlers have to be selected from the seven available.

Other than Dominic Cork, nobody can be sure of a place, not even Devon Malcolm, who vindicated his surprise inclusion in the drawn second Test

the notion that both might play if it is thought conditions will suit swing. If that is the case, however, another alternative is to use Watkinson in a utility role, switching between seam and spin.

Perhaps the most durable attack would be Cork, Fraser, Illot and Richard Illingworth, but the only certainty last night was that a good deal of debate, and possibly unhealthy indecision, lay ahead, the manager having hinted heavily that he had already conceded one battle through the reluctance of Atherton to gamble on a five-man attack.

In other times, this wish might have been accommodated by dispensing with Jack Russell and handing the gloves to Alec Stewart, but, for once, that threat does not exist. Russell, who used his day off on Tuesday to satisfy an ambition to paint his impression of the battleground at Rorke's Drift, has done enough to be sure of his place for some time to come.

Selection decisions are all the more sensitive because of the pivotal nature of the match. "This is the key game of the series," Atherton said. "This is probably a result pitch and the team that wins has a very good chance of at least not losing the series. With it being a particularly difficult ground for reading the conditions, it is doubly important we take our time and get it right."

Neither side can reflect with pride on team and toss decisions thus far. At Centurion Park, South Africa packed their side with seam bowlers, put England into bat and were arguably saved by rain. In Johannesburg, England duplicated the folly and were saved, appropriately and heroically, by Atherton. It is doubtful either captain will insert with confidence for a third time, although a heavy, cloudy morning would make it tempting.

When the pitch was first unveiled on Tuesday, after a night of steady rain, it was damp and green, with a thick covering of grass. Geoffrey Boycott, peering at it suspiciously, pronounced to nobody in particular: "If we are starting the game on that, I'm batting after you — and I won't have to wait long for my turn." By yesterday, however, it had altered texture and colour and the groundsmen, Phil Russell, the former Derbyshire seam bowler, predicted it would be a surface for batting first. Atherton was inclined to agree and added that similar conditions today would encourage the inclusion of a spinner.

"The important thing is how we play," he said. "I have been emphasising how poorly we performed for four days in Johannesburg and you don't win Tests by playing as moderately as that."



Ramprakash takes a relaxed view of his team-mates in practice for the third Test. Photograph: Graham Morris

ed it would be a surface for batting first. Atherton was inclined to agree and added that similar conditions today would encourage the inclusion of a spinner.

"The important thing is how we play," he said. "I have been emphasising how poorly we performed for four days in Johannesburg and you don't win Tests by playing as mod-

erately as that." Woolmer also complained about the stress being laid on the psychological shift brought about by the England escape at the Wanderers. "From all that's been said, you would think we were 2-0 down with three to play, rather than 0-0."

When the cricket resumes this morning, South Africa will hope Shaun Pollock has

recovered from tendon trouble in his left foot. They may also introduce the gifted Jacques Kallis instead of their spin bowler, Clive Eksteen. As to the final England XI, not even Illingworth went to bed last night with more than a sketchy notion.

John Woodcock, page 44  
Headley ready, page 44

## McGhee and Kendall installed for struggle against relegation

BY PETER BALL

THE music stopped yesterday in the Endleigh Insurance League first division's game of managerial musical chairs. Mark McGhee and Howard Kendall promptly found new seats. To nobody's surprise, Wolverhampton Wanderers appointed Mark McGhee as their new manager, while Kendall has replaced Dave Bassett as manager of Sheffield United.

That leaves Bassett, who left Bramall Lane on Tuesday after eight years, without a managerial chair, and Leicester City without a manager. The match would seem obvious, but Martin George, the Leicester chairman, refused to be hustled into an appointment yesterday as he licked his wounds after having a second manager walk out on him in the space of a year.

McGhee has been given a 3½-year contract, at a figure believed to be well over £200,000-a-year. Colin Lee, his assistant manager at Leicester, and Mike Hickman, his coach, have gone with him.

The appointment seemed only a matter of time and decorum, from the moment McGhee handed in his resignation as Leicester manager a week ago. After all, the bitter-

Leicester refusing to accept the resignation, Wolverhampton have at least tried to rescue some decorum, agreeing a compensation package with Leicester, believed to be around £750,000, and getting that club's "reluctant" permission to talk to McGhee before announcing his appointment.

Even McGhee, whose departure from Reading for Leicester a year ago had also been acrimonious, had the grace to be a little shame-faced about the events. "I hope to be here for more than a year," he said wryly. "I have avoided tormenting myself with all that has been said, but I think it's understandable there is resentment that I left at the

stage I did. It is a career decision and it's one I had to face. I didn't expect it to come up after I'd been at Leicester only a year and I had the decision whether I would stay at Leicester for another three or four years for another such opportunity to come up."

"I talked to my family and other people, but the size of Wolves and the potential are irresistible and would be to anyone with real ambition in the game. It is the sort of job I have been gearing towards all my managerial career."

McGhee's first task, however, is to rescue Wolverhampton from their position near the relegation zone. For the second time in a year, he has

left a club in a good position to gain promotion for one with greater potential that is threatened by relegation. Unlike at Leicester a year ago, Wolverhampton's position is a false one, although the failures of the pre-season promotion favourites proved too much for Graham Taylor, whose resignation last month led to the vacancy.

McGhee's inheritance is a lot more promising than Kendall's at Sheffield United. Bassett's departure, after an unrelenting struggle at a club with little money that was forced to sell its few assets, sees the club below Wolverhampton and among the favourites for relegation.

Kendall, one of the game's outstanding older managers, who won two championships with Everton in 1985 and 1987, has appointed Adrian Heath as his assistant. He was optimistic yesterday and the arrival of Mike McDonald as chairman offers some hope for a change in United's circumstances.

"I'm thrilled to be back at an ambitious club with an ambitious chairman," Kendall said. "Our short-term objective is to get points, improve our league position and achieve safety."



McGhee arrives at Wolverhampton to take over as manager.

## Halifax made to proceed against Goulding

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

HALIFAX said yesterday that they were "surprised and confused" at having to instigate disciplinary proceedings against Bobbie Goulding, the St Helens captain, believing it was the responsibility of the Rugby League.

The Yorkshire club has cited the international scrum half for an alleged illegal tackle during the Regal Trophy quarter-final meeting on Sunday at Knowsley Road in which John Fieldhouse, the Halifax prop, sustained a broken jaw.

Goulding faces a hearing — and a possible suspension — in Leeds today after the league's executive committee was shown a video recording of the incident and referred the matter to the disciplinary committee. Halifax were under the impression that the league would assume the duty this season of citing players thought guilty of foul or dangerous play.

Steve Simons, the Halifax coach, said: "All the coaches were told before the season started that the league were going to take the onus of citing players off the clubs, so that the clubs wouldn't have to worry about appearing to be vindictive or falling out between themselves."

However, Greg McCallum, the controller of referees, said: "The onus is not necessarily on the league. It is a joint effort between the club, the league and the referee to provide a safe environment for players to play in. If a foul is committed, any one of those provisions can take place."

"In the case of an injured player, it is essential the club pass on that information to the league and the only real way they can do it that would be acceptable to everyone is to lodge a complaint, which is exactly what they did."

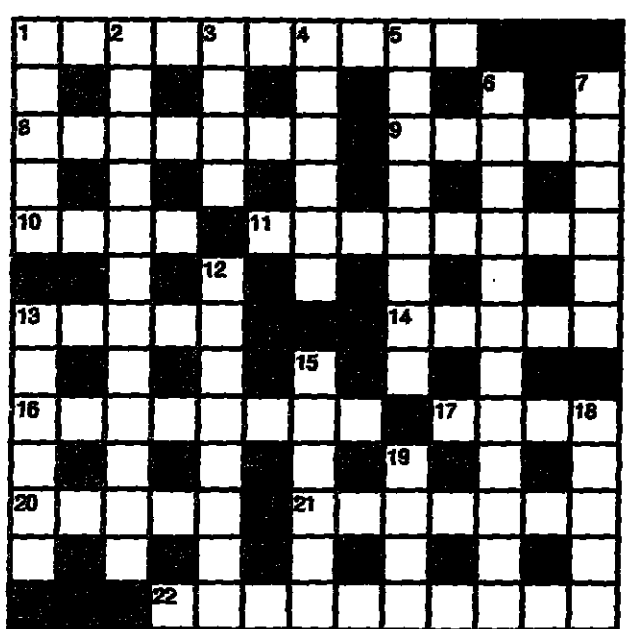
Suspension could rule Goulding out of St Helens's busy holiday schedule, which includes a Boxing Day match at Wigan and the Regal Trophy semi-final against Warrington. First, they are at Castleford next Wednesday.

St Helens said they were "surprised and disappointed" with the decision by Halifax to instigate proceedings against Goulding.

Cook moves, page 45

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 652 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



### ACROSS

- 1 Simplicity itself (6,4)
- 8 Old: old man (7)
- 9 Division of act (5)
- 10 Process of voting (4)
- 11 A swindle (5,5)
- 13 Accommodate (5)
- 14 Animated, vigorous (5)
- 16 Collar-bone (8)
- 17 Tu cripple (4)
- 20 Jungle Book bear (5)
- 21 Raises doubts (about) (7)
- 22 (Love) not returned (10)

### DOWN

- 1 Immobiliser (5)

### Great beyond reckoning

- (12)
- 3 (Cloth) given a new colour (4)
- 4 Quality arousing pity (6)
- 5 Frenchman: guard-dog (8)
- 6 One through to last four (12)
- 7 Disrupt speaker (6)
- 12 Big narrow-necked bottle (8)
- 13 Priam's queen: why weep for her? (Hamlet) (6)
- 15 Exclusive group (6)
- 18 Pondered (5)
- 19 Country, capital Lima (4)

### PRIZES:

THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network.

THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return ticket to anywhere on British Midland's domestic network. British Midland offers an extensive range of departure and destination points throughout the UK as well as Europe. As the UK's second largest scheduled service airline and Heathrow's second biggest user, it operates a fleet of 35 aircraft on over 1200 flights per week throughout the UK and Europe. All flights are subject to availability.

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address .....

### SOLUTION TO No 651

ACROSS: 1 Parapet 5 Jobs 8 Nippy 9 Repulse 10 Come again 12 Awe 13 Sticky 14 Shouts 17 Nil 18 Small a rat 20 Lignite 21 Avail 23 Tute 24 Solomon

DOWN: 1 Panic 2 Rap 3 Payback 4 Tarzan 5 Japan 6 Bealeague 7 Tilt 8 Moonlight 13 Singlet 15 Holdall 16 Recess 18 Spire 19 Crown 22 Arm

Renewing your car insurance?

Christmas has come early this year.

For a great policy at a great price, call AA Insurance.

For a competitive quote Call 0800 444 777

Also available at AA shops.

**AA Insurance**

REGISTERED OFFICE: Norfolk House, Priory Road, Basingstoke, Hants RG24 0NE  
Incorporated in the United Kingdom. Policy cover subject to acceptance by underwriters.  
Specimen policies are available on request. Automobile Association Insurance Services Ltd is a  
1 Independent intermediary governed by the AA Code of Conduct.